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THE HINDU

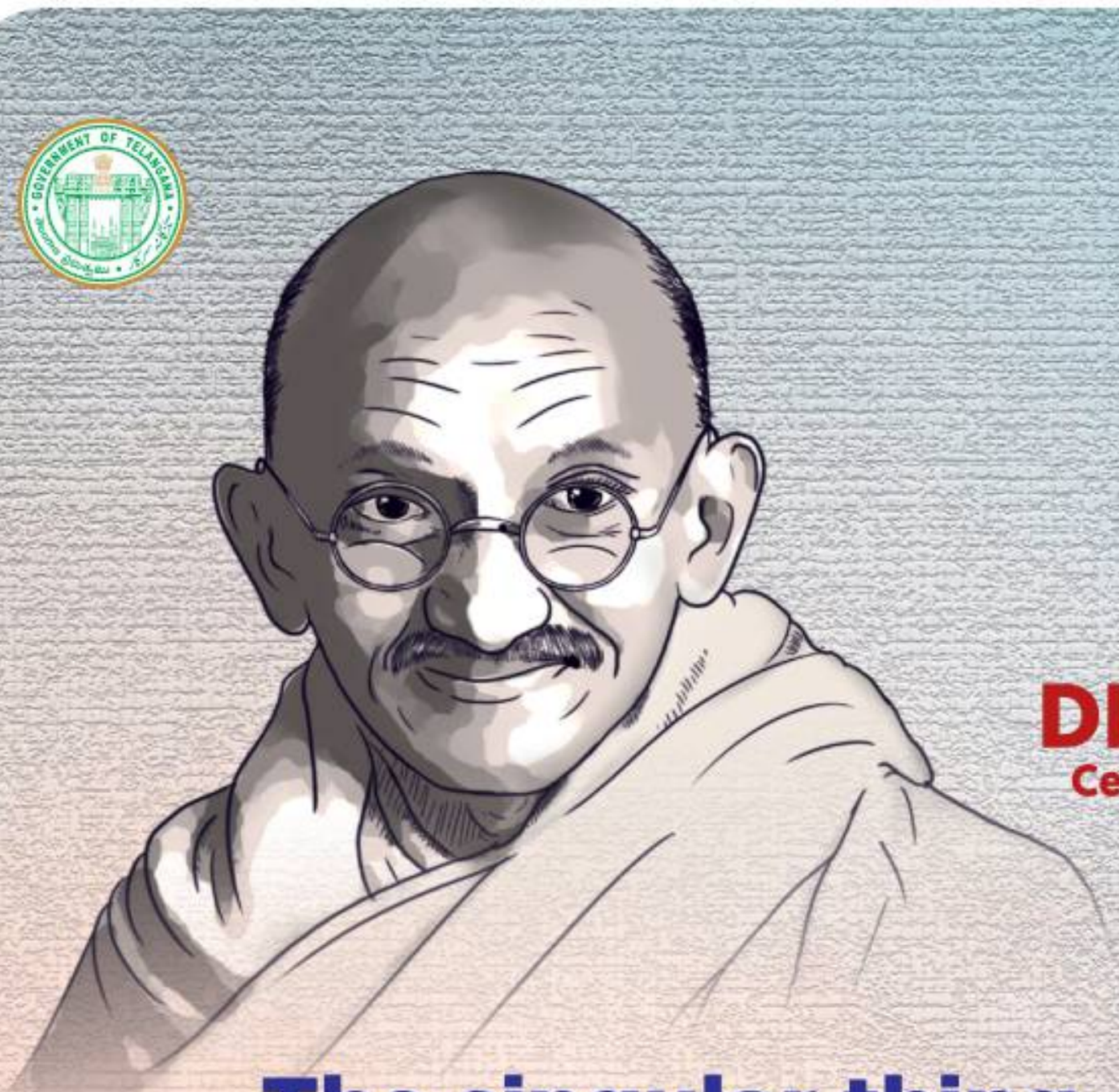
INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878

MONDAY, AUGUST 8, 2022

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
Vol. 53 • No. 187
18 pages • ₹6.00

PRINTED AT · CHENNAI · COIMBATORE · BENGALURU · HYDERABAD · MADURAI · NOIDA · VISAKHAPATNAM · THIRUVANANTHAPURAM · KOCHI · VIJAYAWADA · MANGALURU · TIRUCHIRAPALLI · KOLKATA · HUBBALLI · MOHALI · MALAPPURAM · MUMBAI · TIRUPATI · LUCKNOW · CUTTACK · PATNA

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA



75
DIAMOND JUBILEE
Celebrations of India's Independence
TELANGANA STATE

8 - 22 August, 2022

The singular thing about Telangana is that it is PLURAL

Invoking the Nation's founding spirit and imagination, Telangana, the youngest state is moving ahead, drawing inspiration from its history with inclusion, mobility and organic growth.

Government of Telangana has decided to conduct the 75th year of Celebrations of India's Independence in a grand manner. Honorable Chief Minister of Telangana Sri K. Chandrasekhar Rao has called for a grand tribute to the valiant Freedom Fighters who sacrificed their life for India's freedom and to carry out the vision of these great leaders by taking up development and welfare of all citizens. Today, Telangana has gained the reputation nationally as the best governed Welfare State. Telangana shines with uninterrupted 24/7 power supply and a strong stable governance ensuring proper development and welfare of all religions, castes and communities. Telangana has emerged as the most preferred destination for investment and real estate.

The state is striving hard to realise Mahatma Gandhiji's dream of self-sustaining Gram Panchayats by developing Model (Adarsh) villages and Urban Local Bodies. As India Celebrates the 75th year of independence, Telangana is becoming the role model for the nation.

Government of Telangana extends hearty greetings to the people on this momentous occasion.

PROGRAMME SCHEDULE

08.08.2022 Inauguration at HICC, Hyderabad by Hon'ble Chief Minister

09.08.2022 Commencement of Distribution of National Flags to all Households
- National Flags will be delivered to Collectors
- Organize function at Dist. HQs with Hon'ble Ministers for commencing distribution
- Collectors to send it to Mandals & GPs
- Ensure distribution to each & every households
- Ensure it is hoisted on all households
- Flag code to be followed during hoisting

10.08.2022 Vanamahotsavam - Planting of Saplings
Setting up of 'Freedom Parks'
- Take up planting of saplings in all G.Ps / ULBS

11.08.2022 Freedom Run
- Organize 'Freedom Run' at all Mandals / ULBs in coordination with Police Department

12.08.2022 Jateeya Samaikyata Raksha Bandhan
- Local TV networks to be requested to telecast patriotic programmes.

13.08.2022 Rallies by students / NCC / NSS / Scouts & Guides / Employees with Flag & Placards
Congregation at a big ground & release of tricoloured balloons in all GPs / ULBs

14.08.2022 Janapada Kalakarula Pradarshanalu in all Dist. / Constituency HQs
- Folk artists performances to be arranged in coordination with Telangana Samskruthika Sarathi.

Fireworks
- In the evening, fireworks to be arranged in all Dist. HQs.

15.08.2022 Independence Day Celebrations

16.08.2022 Telangana Rashtra Samoohika Jateeya Geeta Alapana. (Singing of National Anthem in all GPs / Municipalities at a designated time)
- To be arranged in all GPs/ULBs in coordination with SPs/CPs.

Kavi Sammelanam in all Districts

17.08.2022 Blood Donation Camps at District HQs
- To be organized in coordination with DM&HO, NGOs with atleast 75 Donors.

18.08.2022 "Freedom Cup"
Sports Tournaments for employees / youth
- To be organized for employees at Mandal level, District level in coordination with Sports Dept.

19.08.2022 Distribution of Fruits / Sweets at Hospitals / Old Age Homes / Orphanages / Prisons

20.08.2022 "Rangoli" on the theme of Patriotism by SHGs & Women (In all GPs / ULBs)

21.08.2022 Special Session of Assembly
Special Meetings of ZPP / MPP / GP
Special Meetings of Municipal Corporations / Municipalities

22.08.2022 Valedictory Programme at LB Stadium, Hyderabad.

HAR DIL MEIN THIRANGA

Independent India's illuminating and holistic state

Issued by Commissioner, Information and Public Relations Department, Government of Telangana

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Kalaiselvi becomes first woman chief of CSIR in its 80-year history
page 12

China keeps up pressure on Taiwan with fourth day of drills
page 14

Eldhose becomes first Indian triple jumper to win gold at CWG
page 15

Nikhat, Nitu, Panghal punch their way to glory at Birmingham
page 15

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NEARBY

Two children die in wall collapse caused by rain

BENGALURU

Two children were buried alive and two women were injured when a part of the wall of a cowshed belonging to an adjacent house collapsed on them after heavy rains in Solur village near Kudlu Cross, in Ramanagaram, on Sunday.

BENGALURU ▸ PAGE 2

Fish choke to death in Jakkur lake

BENGALURU

Several fish were found dead at Jakkur lake in North Bengaluru, allegedly due to entry of sewage along with rainwater after the recent rains in the city. Residents also alleged that they were forced to live with the stench of dead fish despite complaining to BBMP officials.

BENGALURU ▸ PAGE 2

Outflow from KRS crosses 1 lakh cusecs

MYSURU

The outflow from the Krishnaraja Sagar (KRS) reservoir in Mandya district crossed 1 lakh cusecs on Sunday evening owing to heavy rainfall in the catchment areas of rivers Cauvery and Hemavathi.

KARNATAKA ▸ PAGE 6

EDUCATIONPLUS ▸ PAGES 4 & 5

PM lauds States for cooperative federalism in fighting COVID-19

NITI Governing Council discusses crop diversification, NEP, urban governance

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said the collective effort of all the States in the spirit of cooperative federalism was the force that helped India emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Addressing the seventh meeting of the NITI Aayog Governing Council, the Prime Minister said that during the pandemic, every State played a crucial role by focusing on the grassroots delivery of public services through cooperation across political lines.

In that process, India emerged as an example for the developing nations to look up to as a global leader, he added.

Telangana and Bihar Chief Ministers K. Chandrasekhar Rao and Nitish Kumar, respectively, did not participate in the meeting, which was attended by 23 Chief Ministers, three Lieutenant-Governors and two Administrators and Union Ministers.

Through a four-page letter to the Prime Minister, Mr. Rao had earlier conveyed that he would stay away from the meeting "as a mark of strong protest against the present trend of the Union government to discriminate against the States and not treating them as equal partners".

Top deck: Prime Minister Narendra Modi (centre) and other Ministers and Chief Ministers at the seventh Governing Council meeting of NITI Aayog in New Delhi on Sunday. • PTI

The NITI Aayog termed the decision "unfortunate", while Union Minister Piyush Goyal on Saturday said the boycott showed that the Telangana Chief Minister had lost interest in the development works for the country's growth.

Key issues

This year, the Governing Council discussed key issues such as crop diversification and achieving self-sufficiency in pulses, oilseeds and other agri-commodities; implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP) in school education and higher education; and urban governance.

In his inaugural address, the Prime Minister stressed the need to focus on modernised agriculture, animal husbandry, and food processing to become self-sufficient and a global leader in the agriculture sector.

Mr. Modi said rapid urbanisation could be turned into a strength by using technology to ensure ease of living, transparent service delivery and improvement in the quality of life.

Describing India's G20 presidency in 2023 as a unique opportunity to show to the world that India was not just confined to Delhi, but included every State and Union Territory, Mr. Modi called for a mass movement for identification of the best talent available in the country.

There should be a dedicated team for G20 in the States to derive the maximum possible benefit from the initiative, he said.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 10

Satellites launched by SSLV in 'wrong orbit, not usable'

Launch vehicle put them in elliptical, not circular orbit: ISRO

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
SRIHARIKOTA

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) on Sunday said the satellites onboard its maiden Small Satellite Launch Vehicle "are no longer usable" after the SSLV-D1 placed them in an elliptical orbit instead of a circular one.

The space agency said a committee would analyse, and make recommendations on, Sunday's episode. With the implementation of those recommendations, "ISRO will come back soon with SSLV-D2".

"SSLV-D1 placed the satellites into a 356x76 km elliptical orbit instead of the 356-km circular orbit. Satellites are no longer usable. Issue is reasonably identified. Failure of a logic to identify a sensor failure and go for a salvage action caused the deviation," ISRO said in an update on its official Twitter handle.

It added a detailed statement by ISRO Chairman S. Somanath will be "uploaded soon". In its maiden mission, the launch vehicle carried the Earth Observation Satellite EOS-02 and the co-passenger student satellite AzaadiSAT.

SSLV had suffered "data loss" in its terminal stage, after performing "as expected" in all stages. It had earlier lifted off from the spaceport here on Sunday morning.

Wrong turn: The SSLV-D1 carrying the EOS-02 and AzaadiSAT satellites lifting off from Sriharikota on Sunday. • RAGU R

Low earth orbit

After establishing itself with the successful launches of various satellites using its Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) and Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicles (GSLV), ISRO had targeted the SSLV market which places the satellites into 500-km low-earth orbit.

The EOS-02 is an experimental optical remote sensing satellite with a high spatial resolution.

It is to realise and fly an experimental imaging satellite with a short turnaround time and to demonstrate launch-on-demand capability. EOS-02 belongs to the microsatellite series of spacecraft.

The AzaadiSAT is a 8U CubeSat weighing around 8 kg. It carries 75 different payloads each weighing around 50 grams. Girl students from rural regions across the country were provided guidance to build these payloads.

The payloads were integrated by the student team of Space Kidz India. The ground system developed by Space Kidz India will be utilised for receiving the data from this satellite, ISRO said.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 10

Convicted U.P. Minister flees with order

STAFF REPORTER
LUCKNOW

After being found guilty in a 31-year-old Arms Act case on Saturday by a Kanpur court, Uttar Pradesh Minister for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Rakesh Sachan allegedly fled with a copy of the court order.

In the complaint filed at the Kotwali police station in Kanpur, the Reader at the Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate office alleged that the Minister, who has been found guilty in case number 729/1991 under Sections 20, 25 and 30 of Arms Act, fled with the copy of the court order.

The matter dates back to August 13, 1991, when the station officer of the Naubasta police station filed the case against Mr. Sachan, after a weapon of a relative was found in his possession. He failed to show the licence on the spot.

The Opposition attacked the government on the issue, and asked the Chief Minister to seek the resignation of Mr. Sachan immediately.

A tweet from the official handle of the Samajwadi Party reads, "Cabinet Minister Rakesh Sachan fled from court after getting convicted in an old case. Chief Minister should take resignation immediately."

"We need to wait. If any decision of the honourable court comes, the Minister's membership will automatically get nullified. As of now, I am not aware of the whole matter as conflicting information is coming out," Rakesh Tripathi, Uttar Pradesh BJP spokesperson, said.

Mr. Sachan, who joined the BJP before the 2022 Assembly election, started his political career with the SP. He served as a Lok Sabha member from the Fatehpur constituency between 2009 and 2014.

Only three IPS officers opt for Central deputation

No senior-rank officer has sought a posting in Union govt.

VIJAITA SINGH
NEW DELHI

The shortage of All India Services (AIS) officers continues to affect the Centre as only three Indian Police Service (IPS) officers have offered themselves for Central deputation, according to Home Ministry data as on July 18.

The officers are all in the rank of Superintendent of Police. There is no offer from senior officers in the ranks of Director-General of Police, Additional Director-General, Inspector-General and Deputy Inspector-General expressing their willingness to be posted with the Union government.

In comparison, an October 2018 vacancy list of the Ministry shows that 14 IPS officers were willing to come on Central deputation then.

According to the Ministry data on July 18, there are 263 vacancies for IPS officers in 17 Central organisations such as the Central Bureau of Investigation, the Central Armed Police Forces and the Intelligence Bureau.

Vacant posts | There are 263 vacancies for IPS officers in 17 central organisations such as the CBI, Central Armed Police Forces and the IB. A lowdown:

- Vacancies for IPS officers in various Central police organisations: **263**
- Sanctioned strength of IPS officers in various Central police organisations: **656**
- IPS officers who have offered themselves for Central deputation: **3**
- Sanctioned strength of total IPS officers in the country: around **4,900**

Most vacancies are in the rank of DIGs (94) and SPs (137). IPS officers are also appointed to other Central government positions including in Union Ministries.

In February, the Home Ministry amended the IPS tenure policy doing away with the mandatory requirement of empanelment of IPS officers at the DIG level. It said "officers with minimum 14 years of experience will be eligible for appointment at the level of DIG by the Centre".

Officers are assessed if they are suitable for Central deputation by the Central Police Establishment Board (CPEB) headed by the Union Home Secretary.

The names of officers up to the IG level are then sent to the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) headed by the Prime Minister for approval.

Replying to a question by V. Sivadasan of the CPI(M) in the Rajya Sabha on August 4, Personnel Minister Jitendra Singh said there were 14 IAS officers posted in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO).

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 10

Mobile Net off in Manipur after riots

Tribal students impose NH blockade demanding more autonomy for hill regions

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI/IMPHAL

Amid protests by tribal students, the BJP-led government in Manipur suspended mobile Internet services for five days across the State from Sunday morning.

The authorities in Bishnupur and Churachandpur districts also clamped orders prohibiting the assembly of four or more persons for two months.

In an order issued late on Saturday night, the State Home Department said mobile Internet services had to be suspended in view of some anti-social elements fanning communal passions and circulating hate speeches through social media platforms.

Some of the "objectionable" social media posts relate to the torching of two vehicles in two separate incidents on Saturday after the police caned tribal students protesting against the introduction of the Manipur (Hill Areas) District Council sixth and seventh Amendment Bills in the Assembly on August 2.

Air of tension: A van that was torched in Manipur on Saturday after a face-off between the police and tribal students opposing the tabling of a Bill in the Assembly. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Nearly 30 students were injured in the police action. The All Tribal Students' Union Manipur (ATSUM) has been asking the 60-member House to table the Manipur Autonomous District Council (Amendment) Bill, 2021 to ensure that the tribal-inhabited hill areas get greater financial and administrative autonomy for development on a par with the valley areas dominated by non-tribal people.

Bills rejected

Rejecting the amendment Bills that "cannot fulfil tribal aspirations", the ATSUM imposed an indefinite economic blockade along the National Highways in the hill districts from Friday morning.

The highways are the lifelines for the Imphal Valley, the central part of the State surrounded by the hills.

In retaliation, a valley-based organisation called Meitei Leepun locked the ATSUM's office in Imphal. The police reopened the office on Friday evening.

On August 4, the police arrested five ATSUM leaders and charged them with conspiring to impose the blockade. They are now in judicial custody.

The ATSUM said the blockade would be lifted only if the State government concedes to its demands and changes its "step-motherly" attitude towards the tribals. "We will intensify our agitation," ATSUM vice-president Vanlallian Khaute said.

Economic or highway blockades, aimed at choking supplies to the Imphal Valley, were a regular feature in Manipur. It made a comeback after 2017 when Nongthombam Biren Singh took charge as Chief Minister.

Over half of BMTC AC bus fleet remains idle

Higher fuel cost and shortage of crew forces corporation to 'limit' the schedule of these services in city

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

It has been over six months since the Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) reduced fares of the Vajra AC buses to woo passengers and thereby increase the occupancy. But a majority of AC buses still remain off the road as high fuel price and shortage of crew have forced the corporation to "limit" the schedule of these services.

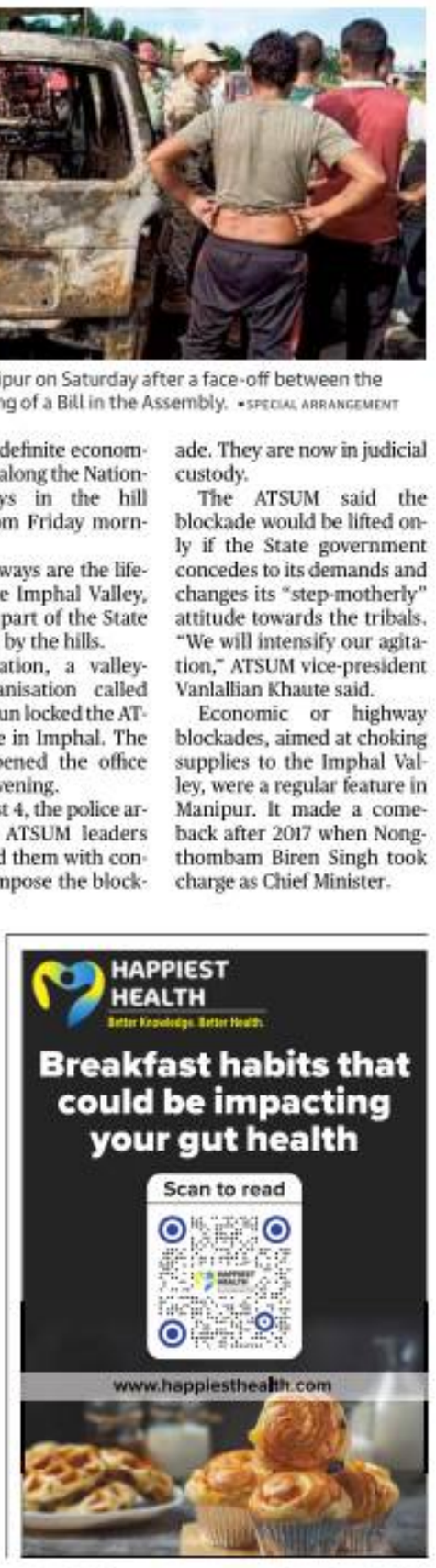
BMTC has a fleet of 860 AC buses, out of which 834 are Volvo buses. Out of the total fleet, 373 AC buses are operational. After the outbreak of pandemic, the demand for AC buses drastically dropped, as people opted to work from home and also used private vehicles to commute. Last December, to increase the ridership, BMTC reduced the ticket fares by 35% and also cut fares of daily and monthly passes.

Officials maintained that the initiative had been well received by the public. But owing to the high cost involved in the purchase of diesel, a majority of the revenue earned was going towards fuel expenses. The operational costs involved in running AC buses is also higher than that of ordinary buses; in addition, crew shortage too forced the corporation to not increase schedules. AC buses give mileage of close to 2 km per litre, whereas ordinary buses give up to 4 km per litre.

Director (IT) of BMTC Surya Sen A.V. told *The Hindu* that the corporation was facing a shortage of 5,000 bus crew. "Barring Vayu Vajra services that are operated on airport route, the rest of the buses are running under loss owing to high fuel cost. BMTC is spending over ₹2 crore towards fuel expenses. To bring it down, we are not adding additional AC buses in city limits. Running AC buses involves more operational cost."

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 3

- In city limits, Vajra services earn ₹47 a km, whereas Vayu Vajra services operated to Kempegowda International Airport earn ₹55 to ₹60 a km.
- BMTC has a fleet of 860 AC buses, out of which 834 are Volvo buses. Out of the total fleet, 373 AC buses are operational.
- The corporation is facing a shortage of 5,000 bus crew.
- AC buses give mileage of close to 2 km a litre in city limits, whereas ordinary buses give up to 4 km a litre.



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Text & Context

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NEWS IN NUMBERS

Cases of "hate news"

130 The number of cases of "hate news" reported to social media platforms between the 2019 Lok Sabha election and the latest round of Assembly polls in five States held earlier this year. During the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, 58 such cases were reported while 34 cases were reported during the 2020 Delhi Assembly polls. No complaint was received during the 2019 Jharkhand polls and the 2020 Bihar election. In the Assam, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Puducherry Assembly polls last year, 29 cases were reported. PTI

Gains wiped out

18,480 In ₹ crore, the combined loss posted by Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL). According to stock exchange filings, the losses were due to erosion in the marketing margin on petrol, diesel and domestic LPG. This wiped away gains from the record refining margin. IOC, HPCL and BPCL have not changed their rates for four months despite the rise in international prices. PTI

Investor inflows

14,000 In ₹ crore, the amount foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) invested in Indian equities in the first week of August amid softening of the dollar index. This is was way higher than the net investment of nearly ₹5,000 crore by FPIs throughout July. FPIs had turned buyers in July after nine straight months of heavy net outflows. which started in October last year. Between October 2021 and June 2022, they sold a massive ₹2.46 lakh crore in Indian equity markets. PTI

Blocking orders

105 The number of blocking orders issued by the government to social media platforms under the new IT rules that came into effect in February last year. According to information shared by the Minister of State for Electronics and IT Rajeev Chandrasekhar, 94 directions to block content were issued to YouTube between December 2021 and April 2022, five to Twitter, and three each to Facebook and Instagram. He said that the government's policies are aimed at ensuring an open, safe and accountable internet for its users. PTI

Telecom complaints

5 In crore, the number of mobile service complaints received against telecom operators related to mobile services during 2021-22. About 54% of them were against Airtel, followed by Vodafone Idea. The number of complaints for Airtel stood at 2.99 crore and for Vodafone-Idea at 2.17 crore. The number of such complaints against Reliance Jio was 25.8 lakh, according to Minister of State for Communications Devusinh Chauhan. The number of complaints against state-owned Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd (BSNL) stood at 8.8 lakh. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

EXPLAINER

The workings of the Supreme Court collegium

How is the collegium constituted and what are its responsibilities? Who is set to be the next Chief Justice of India?

THE GIST

- The collegium of the Supreme Court consisting of the Chief Justice of India and four senior-most judges of the Supreme Court make recommendations for appointments to the apex court and High Courts.
- The CJI and the judges of the Supreme Court are appointed by the President under clause (2) of Article 124 of the Constitution. The appointment to the office of the CJI should be of the senior-most judge of the Supreme Court considered fit to hold the office.
- The increase in the number of judges has not guaranteed lower pendency of cases in the apex court over the years. The number of pending cases has risen to 71,411 as on August 1, 2022 from a little over 55,000 in 2017.

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL

The story so far: The Chief Justice of India (CJI) N.V. Ramana's tenure is drawing to an end in a few days. The Ramana Collegium has been particularly successful. Meeting frequently and working quickly, they took the perennial problem of judicial vacancies by its horns and turned it around. The collegium, as a united front, was able to recommend numerous judicial appointments and scripted history by getting nine Supreme Court judges appointed in one go. Of the nine, Justice B.V. Nagarathna, is in line to be the first woman CJI in 2027.

What exactly is the collegium system?
The collegium system was born out of years of friction between the judiciary and the executive. The hostility was further accentuated by instances of court-packing (the practice of changing the composition of judges in a court), mass transfer of high court judges and two supersessions to the office of the CJI in the 1970s.

The Three Judges cases saw the evolution of the collegium system. In the First Judges case, the court held that the consultation with the CJI should be "full and effective". The Second Judges case introduced the collegium system in 1993. It ruled that the CJI would have to consult a collegium of his two senior-most judges in the apex court on judicial appointments. The court held that such a "collective opinion" of the collegium would have primacy over the government. It was the Third Judges case in 1998, which was a Presidential reference, that expanded the judicial collegium to its present composition of the CJI and four of his senior-most judges.

How does the collegium system work?
The collegium of the CJI and four senior-most judges of the Supreme Court make recommendations for appointments to the apex court and High Courts. The collegium can veto the government if the names are sent back by the latter for reconsideration. The basic tenet behind the collegium system is that the judiciary should have primacy over the government in matters of appointments and transfers in order to remain independent. However, over time, the collegium system has attracted criticism, even from within the judicial institution, for its lack of transparency. It has even been accused of nepotism. The government's efforts to amend the Constitution and bring a National Judicial Appointments Commission was struck down by a Constitution Bench.

How are judicial appointments to the Supreme Court made?
The appointment of the CJI and judges of the apex court is governed by a Memorandum of Procedure. The CJI and the judges of the Supreme Court are appointed by the President under clause (2) of Article 124 of the Constitution. The appointment to the office of the CJI should be of the senior-most judge of the Supreme Court considered fit to hold the office. The Union Law Minister would, at an "appropriate time", seek the recommendation of the outgoing CJI on his successor. Once the CJI recommends, the Law Minister forwards the communication to the Prime Minister who would advise the President on the appointment.

In the case of an appointment of a Supreme Court judge, when a vacancy is expected to arise in the apex court, the collegium would recommend a candidate to the Union Law Minister. The CJI would also ascertain the views of the senior-most judges in the Supreme Court, who hail from the High Court from where the person recommended comes from. The opinions of each member of the Collegium and other judges consulted should be made in writing and form part of the file on the candidate sent to the government. If the CJI had consulted non-judges, he should make a memorandum containing the substance of consultation, which would also be part of the file. After the receipt of the Collegium recommendation, the Law Minister would forward it to the Prime Minister, who would advise the President in the matter of appointment.

A view of the Supreme Court of India. • SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Has the increase in judicial appointments lowered pendency in the Supreme Court?
The increase in the number of judges has not guaranteed lower pendency of cases in the apex court over the years. The number of pending cases has risen to 71,411 as on August 1, 2022 from a little over 55,000 in 2017. This is despite the fact that the sanctioned judicial strength of the court was increased to 34 judges in August 2019. A steady rise in arrears regardless of the periodic increase in judicial strength has been a constant phenomenon since 1950.

In 1950, the Supreme Court had eight judges and a pendency of 100-plus cases. A decade later, in 1960, the judges' strength in the Supreme Court grew to 14 while pendency rose to 3,247. In 1978, the number of apex court judges was 18 and pendency had crossed the 14,000-mark. In 1986, there were 26 judges in the Supreme Court while pendency increased to 27,881. In 2009, the number of judges in the Supreme Court reached 31 though pendency went beyond 50,000. In 2014, the number of judges remained 31 but pendency had burgeoned to over 64,000. In 2020 and 2021, the pandemic added to the pendency rate in the apex court. The year 2020 ended with a backlog of 64,426 cases and 2021 with 69,855 cases.

The court currently has 31 working judges. Four serving judges, including Chief Justice Ramana, would retire in the next few months. His successor Justice U.U. Lalit, is scheduled to retire in November 8, with hardly a three-month tenure as top judge. Justice D.Y. Chandrachud is in line as per the seniority norm to be the 50th CJI Chief Justice in November. The problems of arrears and vacancies in the apex court may likely fall on his shoulders in a year of churn.

EXPLAINER

The Great Barrier Reef's recovery and vulnerability to climate threats

What is the extent of recovery recorded in Australia's Great Barrier Reef? What are the potential threats to its health?

DIKSHA MUNJAL

The story so far: The highest levels of coral cover, within the past 36 years, has been recorded in the northern and central parts of Australia's Great Barrier Reef (GBR), according to the annual long-term monitoring report by the Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS). The researchers behind the report have warned, however, that this could be quickly reversed owing to rising global temperatures. This came after the reef experienced a mass coral bleaching event in March this year.

What are coral reefs?
Corals are marine invertebrates or animals which do not possess a spine. They are the largest living structures on the planet. Each coral is called a polyp and thousands of such polyps live together to form a colony, which grow when polyps multiply to make copies of themselves.

Corals are of two types – hard corals and soft corals. Hard corals extract calcium carbonate from seawater to build hard, white coral exoskeletons. Hard corals are in a way the engineers of reef ecosystems and measuring the extent of hard coral is a widely-accepted metric for measuring the condition of coral reefs. Soft corals attach themselves to such skeletons and older skeletons built by their ancestors. Soft corals also add their own skeletons to the hard structure over the years. These growing multiplying structures gradually form coral reefs.

Australia's Great Barrier Reef is the world's largest reef system stretching across 2,300 km and having nearly 3,000 individual reefs. It hosts 400 different types of coral, gives shelter to 1,500 species of fish and 4,000 types of mollusc. Coral reefs support over 25% of marine biodiversity even as they take up only 1% of the seafloor. The marine life supported by reefs further fuels global fishing industries. Besides, coral reef systems generate $2.7 trillion in annual economic value through goods and service trade and tourism. In Australia, the Barrier Reef, in pre-COVID times, generated $4.6 billion annually through tourism and employed over 60,000 people including divers and guides.

What does the new report say?
The annual long-term monitoring by AIMS began 36 years ago, and reefs are surveyed through in-water and aerial techniques. The current report surveyed 87 reefs in the GBR between August 2021 and May 2022. The report states that reef systems are resilient and capable of recovering after disturbances such as accumulated heat stress, cyclones, predatory attacks and so on, provided the frequency of such disturbances is low.

The new survey shows record levels of region-wide coral cover in the northern and central GBR since the first ever AIMS survey was done. Coral cover is measured by determining the increase in the cover of hard corals. The hard coral cover in northern GBR had reached 36% while that in the central region had reached 33%. Meanwhile, coral cover levels declined in the southern region from 38% in 2021 to 34% in 2022.

The Great Barrier Reef as on March 7. • AFP

The record levels of recovery, the report showed, were fuelled largely by increases in the fast-growing Acropora corals, which are a dominant type in the GBR. Incidentally, these fast growing corals are also the most susceptible to environmental pressures such as rising temperatures, cyclones, pollution, crown-of-thorn starfish (COTs) attacks which prey on hard corals and so on. Also, behind the recent recovery in parts of the reef, are the low levels of acute stressors in the past 12 months – no tropical cyclones, lesser heat stress in 2020 and 2022 as opposed to 2016 and 2017, and a decrease in COTs outbreaks.

Does this mean the reef is out of the woods?
Besides predatory attacks and tropical cyclones, scientists say that the biggest threat to the health of the reef is climate change-induced heat stress, resulting in coral bleaching.

Corals share a symbiotic relationship with single-celled algae called zooxanthellae. The algae prepares food for corals through photosynthesis and also gives them their vibrant colouration. When exposed to conditions like heat stress, pollution, or high levels of ocean acidity, the zooxanthellae start producing reactive oxygen species not beneficial to the corals. So, the corals kick out the colour-giving algae from their polyps, exposing their pale white exoskeleton and leading to coral starvation as corals cannot produce their own food. Bleached corals can survive depending on the levels of bleaching and the recovery of sea temperatures to normal levels. Severe bleaching and prolonged stress in the external environment can lead to coral death.

Over the last couple of decades, climate change-induced rise in temperature has made seas warmer than usual. Under all positive outlooks and projections in terms of cutting greenhouse gases, sea temperatures are predicted to increase by 1.5°C to 2°C by the time the century nears its end. According to the UN assessment in 2021, the world is going to experience heating at 1.5°C in the next decade, the temperature at which bleaching becomes more frequent and recovery less impactful.

The concern is that in the past decade, mass bleaching events have become more closely spaced in time. The first mass bleaching event occurred in 1998 when the El Niño weather pattern caused sea surfaces to heat, causing 8% of the world's coral to die. The second event took place in 2002. But the longest and most damaging bleaching event took place from 2014 to 2017. Mass bleaching then occurred again in 2020, followed by earlier this year. According to the Australian government's scientists, 91% of the reefs it had surveyed in March were affected by bleaching.

Notably, half of the total reefs were surveyed before the peak of this year's mass coral bleaching event in the GBR. Since surveys to determine the effects of bleaching need to occur during or after the summer heatwave, the authors of the report say that the full impact of this year's mass bleaching would only be known in next year's report. The aerial surveys by AIMS included 47 reefs and coral bleaching was recorded on 45 of these reefs. While the levels were not high enough to cause coral death it did leave sub-lethal effects such as reduced growth and reproduction.

The AIMS report says that the prognosis for the future disturbance suggests an increase in marine heatwaves that will last longer and the ongoing risk of COTs outbreaks and cyclones. "Therefore, while the observed recovery offers good news for the overall state of the GBR, there is an increasing concern for its ability to maintain this state," the report says.

THE GIST

- The highest levels of coral cover, within the past 36 years, has been recorded in the northern and central parts of Australia's Great Barrier Reef, according to the annual long-term monitoring report by the Australian Institute of Marine Science.
- Australia's GBR is the world's largest reef system stretching across 2,300 km and having nearly 3,000 individual reefs.
- The new survey shows record levels of region-wide coral cover in the northern and central GBR since the first ever AIMS survey was done. The record levels of recovery were fuelled by increases in the fast-growing Acropora corals. However, scientists warned that these fast growing corals are also the most susceptible to environmental pressures such as rising temperatures, cyclones, pollution etc.

Fast and furious: A view of the Athirappilly waterfalls in its wild beauty in Thrissur district of Kerala. The water flow has increased in recent days after the shutters of the Poringalkuthu dam were opened following heavy rain. • K.K. NAJEEB

'Climate change fuelling rise in extreme weather events'

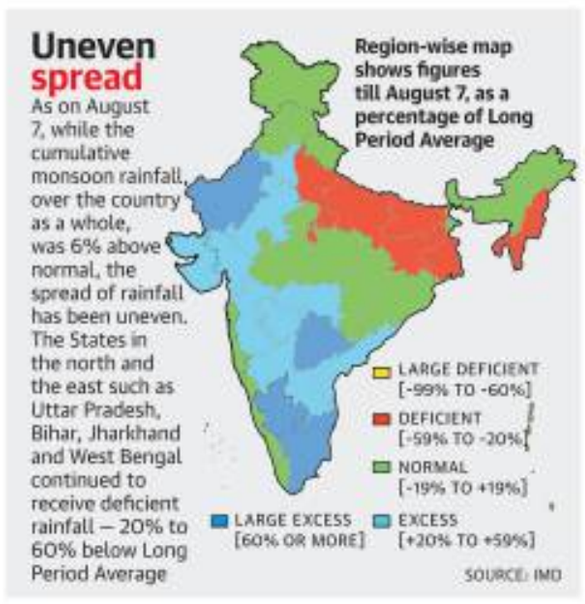
It has also hampered the ability of forecasting agencies to make predictions accurately, says IMD Director-General Mrutyunjay Mohapatra

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Climate change has hampered the ability of forecasting agencies to accurately predict severe events and the India Meteorological Department is installing more radars and upgrading its high-performance computing system to meet the challenge, IMD Director-General Mrutyunjay Mohapatra said here.

He also said that though the monsoon rainfall had not shown any significant trend in the country, the number of heavy rainfall events had increased and that of light rainfall events had decreased due to climate change.

The impact-based forecast will improve to become "more granular, specific and accurate" by 2025 and the IMD will be able to provide forecasts up to panchayat-level clusters and specific areas in cities in the coming years, the IMD chief said.


Uneven spread
As on August 7, while the cumulative monsoon rainfall over the country as a whole, was 6% above normal, the spread of rainfall has been uneven. The States in the north and the east such as Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal continued to receive deficient rainfall — 20% to 60% below Long Period Average
Region-wise map shows figures till August 7, as a percentage of Long Period Average
LARGE DEFICIENT [-99% TO -60%]
DEFICIENT [-59% TO -20%]
NORMAL [-19% TO +19%]
LARGE EXCESS [60% OR MORE]
EXCESS [+20% TO +59%]
SOURCE: IMD

Severity of cyclones

"Climate change has increased the instability in the atmosphere, leading to an increase in convective activity – thunderstorms, lightning and heavy rainfall. The severity of cyclones in the Arabian Sea is also increasing.

"This increase in the frequency of extreme weather events is posing a challenge to forecasters. Studies show that the ability to predict heavy rainfall is hampered due to climate change," he said.

The IMD is bolstering its observational network with the augmentation of radars, automatic weather stations and rain gauges and satellites to improve predictability, Mr. Mohapatra said.

"We have put up six radars in the northwest Himalayas and four more will be installed this year. The procurement process is on for eight radars in the northeast Himalayan region.

"There are certain gap areas in the rest of the country that will be filled up with 11 radars. The number of radars will increase from 34 at present to 67 by 2025," the IMD chief said.

Radars are preferred because they have a higher resolution and can provide observations every 10 minutes.

The Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) also plans to upgrade its high-performance computing system – from a capacity of 10 petaflops currently to 30 petaflops in the next two years – which will help assimilate more data into the model that can then be run at higher resolutions.

The lower the range of a weather model, the higher its resolution and the greater the precision.

At present, the IMD-MoES weather modelling system has a resolution of 12 kilometres. The target is to make it six kilometres. Similarly, the resolution of the regional modelling system will be improved from three kilometres to one kilometre.

On climate change increasing the fragility of the Himalayas, he said, "Climate change is a fact and we need to plan all our activities accordingly."

"A study by the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, MoES says the frequency of mini-cloud bursts (five cm or more rainfall in an hour) is increasing in the Himalayas. And it can also cause damage," Mr. Mohapatra said.

Deficit in north, east

On the impact of climate change on monsoon, he said: "We have got the digital data of the rainfall since 1901. Parts of north, east and northeast India show a decrease in rainfall, while some areas in the west, such as west Rajasthan, show an increase. "Thus, there is no significant trend if we consider the country as a whole – the monsoon is random and it shows large-scale variations."

On July 27, the government had told Parliament that Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Meghalaya and Nagaland had shown significant decreasing trends in the southwest monsoon rainfall during the recent 30-year period (1989-2018, both years included). The annual rainfall over these five States, along with Arunachal Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh, had also shown significant decreasing trends, it said.

Mr. Mohapatra said an analysis of the day-to-day rainfall data since 1970, however, shows that the number of very heavy rainfall days had increased and that of light or moderate rainfall days had decreased.

"That means if it is not raining, it is not raining. If it is raining, it is raining heavily. The rainfall is more intense when there is a low-pressure system.

"This is one of the most important trends found in the tropical belt, including India. Studies have proved that this increase in heavy rainfall events and decrease in light precipitation are due to climate change," he said.

The IMD head explained that climate change has increased the surface air temperature, which in turn has increased the evaporation rate. Since warmer air holds more moisture, it leads to intense rainfall.

He said the IMD's forecast accuracy had improved by about 30% to 40% for severe weather events such cyclones, heavy rain, thunderstorms, heat waves, cold waves and fog in the past five years due to an improvement in the observational network, modelling and computing systems. The number of deaths due to cyclones and heat waves had also reduced over the years because of an improvement in the early warning lead time and preparedness, planning, prevention and mitigation approaches, he added.

When it rains, it pours: A man passes through the waterlogged Aluva Shiva temple premises in Kochi; and a police vehicle negotiating an inundated road in Upper Kuttanad. • PTI, LEJU KAMAL

Natural disasters are no longer aberrations in coastal State of Kerala

The southern State has borne the brunt of changing weather patterns

TIKI RAJWI
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The first week of August, yet again, saw Kerala battling natural disasters on an almost State-wide scale. Between July 31 and August 7, 22 people lost their lives in heavy rainfall incidents across the small southern State, while more than 14,000 people, including 2,407 children, were forced to relocate temporarily to 337 relief camps (as on Sunday) opened by the government. National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) teams had to be deployed in 10 districts while the armed forces were on standby.

Ever since Cyclone Ockhi in 2017, when Kerala was rudely awakened to the reality of natural disasters and the ever-looming spectre of climate change and its grim consequences, such arrangements appear to have become an annual affair for the State, often dubbed 'God's Own Country' in glitzy tourism advertisements.

The devastating, back-to-back floods of 2018 and 2019 impressed upon the small State that natural disasters are not aberrations that occur, perhaps, once or twice in a century.

In October 2021, the State was again hit by torrential rainfall which triggered flooding and landslips in some districts.

To higher ground: Fire and Rescue Services personnel shifting people to safety in Alappuzha. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Extreme weather events have heavily impacted the State's social, economic and development landscape over the past four years, forcing the government to weave in disaster management and risk mitigation as critical components of the planning process.

The Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) carried out by the UN agencies in the aftermath of the 2018 floods found that Kerala would require ₹31,000 crore ($4.4 billion) for "recovery and reconstruction".

The variations in geography and the pan-Kerala vulnerability to disaster risk - no geographical region has been spared, be it the high ranges of the east or the long coastline - has made the job of the State Government an unenviable one, at best.

The State Planning Board, in the Economic Review for 2021, observed that "climate change poses serious threat to Kerala's environment and has become an agenda for development planning in recent years".

Again, in the approach paper to the 14th five-year plan for Kerala published recently, the State Planning Board stated that Kerala will pay greater attention to preventive action for disaster risk mitigation, especially to engineering solutions "that integrate local environmental and ecosystem peculiarities with the demands for social welfare". The back-to-back disasters have prompted Kerala to question the traditional land-use patterns, especially in the ecologically important high ranges of the State.

The increasing frequency of cyclones and related weather systems in the Arabian Sea have critically affected the livelihood of fishers, many of whom have already lost their homes to erosion.

The heavily populated, 590-km coastal belt of Kerala has been especially exposed to the vagaries of climate change in the past few years. Large stretches of the coast are fighting losing battles against coastal erosion on almost a day-to-day basis.

Seashore Erosion in Kerala: Review and Recommendations, an independent review by a group of scientists in 2021 advised Kerala to urgently switch to nature-based and scientifically sound, multi-pronged solutions to protect its coastline from erosion and adopt urgent measures to protect the fishing communities.

The increasing frequency of cyclones and related weather systems in the Arabian Sea have critically affected the livelihood of fishers, many of whom have already lost their homes to erosion.

The recurring natural calamities, especially the intense rainfall spells that are becoming increasingly common, have, predictably, swung the spotlight on weather forecasting and its inadequacies in Kerala. After the 2018 floods, the State government had shot off a letter to the Union government demanding that the India Meteorological Department (IMD) urgently ramp up its weather forecasting infrastructure, calling its services in the State "inadequate".

Parties gear up for civic polls

BJP leaders have held more than three meetings with city leaders

DARSHAN DEVAIAH B.P.
BENGALURU

The State government publishing the ward reservations has paved the way for the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) elections, and various parties, including BJP, Congress and JDS, have started preparing for the polls.

Senior leaders of the BJP have held more than three meetings with the city leaders, including MPs, MLAs and former councillors, in the last month and started working on ground. "The BJP has a very strong ground presence in Bengaluru and the people know about the work the Union and State governments are doing for the people in Bengaluru through metro, infrastructure and other projects. We will detail all this through vision documents once the elections are announced. We have been preparing for the elections. Already, the party's senior leaders have held three preparatory meetings with the city leaders. BJP national general secretary B.L. Santhosh also has held a meeting with the city leaders," Bengaluru Central BJP MP P.C. Mohan told *The Hindu*.

KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar and D.K. Suresh, MP, at the Amrit Mahotsav and BBMP election preparation meeting at Konanakunte in Bengaluru on Sunday. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Despite being unhappy with the State government's ward delimitation and ward reservation process, the opposition Congress has also started to prepare for the BBMP polls. KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar will be touring all the 28 Assembly constituencies and meet with party workers.

On Sunday, Mr. Shivakumar held BBMP pre-poll preparatory meeting with party workers at the Bengaluru South Assembly Constituency. Speaking to *The Hindu*, a senior Congress leader said, "On the lines of the BBMP polls, the party will show its power at the upcoming 'Freedom March' event scheduled to be held on August 15 in Bengaluru. The party is planning to get as many people to gather at the event from all 28 Assembly constituencies at the Basvanagudi National College grounds."

Mr. Shivakumar on Sunday claimed that the survey conducted by Congress says that it will win the civic body polls. "We have conducted a detailed survey in Bengaluru. People want a big change in the city. In the survey, we have found that we will win the BBMP elections," he said.

Meanwhile, Janata Dal (Secular) has formed a BBMP election and manifesto committee. JDS' Bengaluru City district president R. Prakash, said, "The JD(S) is also ready to prepare for the BBMP polls. The party is working with ground-level leaders to make the party strong and face the elections. We have announced BBMP election and manifesto committee."

The State government, on August 3 in light of the directions by the Supreme Court of India on July 28, declared ward-wise reservations for the BBMP to facilitate the long-delayed polls. The number of BBMP council seats was increased from 198 to 243 following a recent delimitation exercise of wards on the basis of their population by the State government.

'Govt. has denied opportunity for Cong. leaders to contest in BBMP polls'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Accusing the BJP government of playing politics to deliberately deny Congress leaders from contesting elections, KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar on Sunday said that of the 90 wards coming under the Assembly constituencies represented by Congress legislators, 76 have been reserved for women. He, however, citing the party's internal survey report said Congress was poised to win BBMP elections. "We are not against reservation for women. Even we want them to be politically empowered. However, opportunities should be equally distributed. It is unfair to concentrate all the reservation to some areas," Mr. Shivakumar told press-persons here.

He pointed out, "Of 9 wards in Jayanagar, 8 have been reserved for women. All the seven wards in Gandhinagar have been reserved for women. In BTM Layout and Chamarajapet, reservation to women have been provided in 8 and 6 wards. Of 14 wards in Bommanahalli (represented by BJP legislator), 9 have been reserved for women. You decide whether it is fair or not." The reservation for backward classes, women and Scheduled Castes have not been distributed properly, he added.

He said that the Congress has already protested against this haphazard reservation by hanging the BJP office board in from of Urban Development department office. "In democracy, it is our duty to point mistakes of the Government. We have told our partymen to file objection and continue our fight." Mr. Shivakumar said that this was an important election for those aspiring to become legislators in future, and gave examples of former Prime Minister late Jawaharlal Nehru, former Chief Minister Kengal Hanumanthaiah, former Maharashtra Chief Minister Vilasrao Deshmukh and former Vice President B.D. Jatti, who all started their political life from local bodies. "Even the President (Draupadi Murmu) started from a local body."

Electoral rolls

Mr. Shivakumar alleged that thousands of names of voters from minority communities and SCs have been missing from the rolls. "I have directed the party workers to review the electoral list. We will convene a separate meeting to discuss the problems of missing names."

The Congress chief also said the party was ready to face the BBMP polls and was gearing up for the same. "We are preparing for the elections and I am travelling across all constituencies."

Citing an internal report of the party, he said, "We have done a survey in Bengaluru and according to it, people are aspiring for a big change. They have decided to remove the BJP government. Though at one time, it was said Congressmen cannot win in Basavangudi and Rajajinagar, our party leaders have won BBMP polls and also become legislators."

Residents stage protest in East Bengaluru over civic issues

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

On Sunday, residents of Whitefield, Kadugodi and Belathur in East Bengaluru, fed up with various civic agencies' apathy after rains, held a protest and demanded better infrastructure, roads and footpaths in the area.

People of all ages and from all walks of life, armed with placards, shouted slogans against elected representatives and civic officials for failing to deliver on numerous promises.

Daily complaints

One of the residents said, "Various civic issues are escalating day by day despite us complaining about it to the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP). After the rains, the roads and drains overflow and the residents have to face issues."

Last November

Another resident said that last November itself, they had brought the issue to the notice of the civic agencies, but nothing has been done yet.

"Whenever we approach the civic body, they keep on sending us to other agencies but no one addresses the issue. There is no accountability," residents added.

Fish choke to death in Jakkur lake

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

Several fish were found dead at Jakkur lake in North Bengaluru, allegedly due to entry of sewage along with rainwater after the recent rains in the city.

Residents also alleged that they were forced to live with the stench of dead fish despite complaining to BBMP officials. They claimed that calls to the BBMP alerting them of the impending tragedy went unanswered. "We have apprised the BBMP officials of this several times. However, no action has been taken so far," a resident of Jakkur said.

For the last couple of days, the fish in the lakes are dying as a result of the polluted water, the walkers here said, adding that it has been happening after the recent heavy rains. Murali, a daily walker around the lake, said, "We are noticing fish dying from the last couple of days and the stench around the lake has become unbearable, which is affecting all of us, both walkers and nearby residents."

Asked for a response, a BBMP official from the Lake Department said, "We are cleaning the lake and the dead fish will be cleaned soon, so the walkers and residents will not have any issue with stench. An inspection will be conducted to find out the reason behind the fishkill."

Manholes open

Citizens' group members believe that one of the reasons behind the deaths of aquatic animals could be the inflow of sewage mixed with rainwater into the lakes. Speaking to *The Hindu*, V. Ramprasad, co-founder and convenor of Friends of Lakes, said, "During heavy rainfall, the manholes open up as a result of pressure in Bengaluru and large volumes of wastewater mixes with rainwater and flows into the lakes. This is one of the important causes to reduce dissolved oxygen levels in water, resulting in fish gasping for oxygen from the air and subsequently, getting killed." In the past few years, various lakes in the city have witnessed similar incidents.

Mr. Ramprasad also blamed the Fisheries Department, which awards contracts to fishing at various lakes in the city, for not taking up responsibility to maintain lakes.

Two children die in wall collapse after rain in Ramanagaram village

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Two children were buried alive and two women were injured when a part of the wall of a cowshed belonging to an adjacent house collapsed on them after heavy rains in Solur village near Kudlu Cross in Kudur police station limits, Ramanagaram, early on Sunday.

The deceased have been identified as Parbeen Sunak, 4, and his cousin Ishika, 3. The injured Monisha and her daughter-in-law Meena have been admitted to the hospital for treatment, while Nikesh, who was sleeping in the adjacent room, escaped unhurt.

According to the police, Parbeen had come with his grandmother Monisha to visit Nikesh and his family from Bengaluru. The victims are from Nepal. Parbeen and Monisha were staying in Bengaluru, while Nikesh and Meena, working as labourers, were staying in the sheet house belonging to Mubin Shariff, with their daughter Ishika. The incident occurred around 2.30 a.m. when a part of the wall of the cowshed of the adjacent house belonging to Ganga Rangamma collapsed on the room where the four people, including the two children and women, were sleeping. The two children were buried alive while the women were rescued by people who rushed to the spot to help.

The Kudur police shifted the victims to hospital, but it was too late. The doctors declared the children 'brought dead' while Monisha and Meena are being treated and are said to be out of danger.

Based on the complaint by Nikesh, the police registered a case of death due to negligence against Ganga Rangamma and Mubin Shariff.

A portion of the wall that collapsed at Solur village in Ramanagaram district on Sunday. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client intends to purchase the Schedule Property from its owner **Sir. AMRATLAL C. OSWAL** and others. The Owners represent that they are the absolute owners of the Schedule Property and apart from them there are no other person/s, having any right, title or claim over the Schedule Property and the Schedule Property is not mortgaged, or encumbered in any manner. The Owners represent that they have not entered into any MoU, Agreement of Sale or any sort of arrangement with any other person/s, with respect to the Schedule Property or part thereof. If any person/s having objection/s or claims may with documentary evidence lodge their objection/claims **within 7 (Seven) days** from the date of this notice with the undersigned, failing which, my client shall proceed with the purchase of the Schedule Property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL of Residential Property bearing Municipal No.21, bearing PID No. 49-5-21 (Older No. 38 and earlier Corporation No.98/4), measuring East to West: 56+54/2 Feet |56 Feet on the Northern Side and 54 Feet on the southern side| and North to South: 30 Feet, in all measuring 1659 Sq. Feet, together with residential building consisting of ground and first floor, in all measuring 1800 Sq. Feet, situated at Mahanta Layout, Bangalore and bounded on the: **East by:** Road, **West by:** Site No.39A, **North by:** Site No. 35, **South by:** Site No. 38A

H M Harsha
UniLegal - Advocates and Attorneys
No.511, Ground Floor, 9th Cross, 6th Main, Sadashivanagar, Bangalore-560080.
Ph: +91 98443-90581 Date: 06-08-2022
e-mail: harsha@unilegal.co.in

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDER (Only Through e-Procurement Portal)

BWSSB invites Tenders from Registered Contractors for the following works.

Office of the Chief Engineer (North), 2nd Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560009

Sl No.	Division	IFT Number	Amount put to Tender / EMD Amount	Last date & time for Submission of Tender	Date & time for Opening of Tender
1.	Central	BWSSB/EE(C)/PB/ 1306/2022-23 Dated: 04.08.2022	₹ 23,08,699/- / ₹ 50,000/-	18.08.2022 upto 5:00 pm	19.08.2022 after 5:01 pm

Sd/- Executive Engineer (Central)

Office of the Chief Engineer (WWM)-East, 5th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560009

2.	(WWM-STP) K&T Valley	BWSSB/EE(WWM-STP) K&T/19/2022-23 Dated: 03.08.2022	₹ 19,98,075/- / ₹ 49,952/-	16.08.2022 upto 4:00 pm	17.08.2022 at 4:05 pm

Sd/- Executive Engineer (WWM-STP) K&T Valley

The detail regarding the tender & participation in the e-procurement portal process can be obtained by logging on to **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** For further details contact the above signed office during working hours. DIPR/1713/2022-23

STAY PROTECTED FROM COVID-19, NO CARELESSNESS UNTIL THERE IS A CURE.

Wear Mask | 6 Feet Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

anthology

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that **Campus Management International Private Limited,** having its registered office at Bagmane Tech Park, Olympia / Building No:1, C V Raman Nagar, Byrasandra Post, Bangalore-560093, Karnataka, India has changed its name to **Anthology International Private Limited,** w.e.f. 28 th June 2022. All stakeholders are requested to take note of above information.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Expression of Interest Notice No. EOI-SWR-Works-MYS-01-2022 Dt:04-08-2022

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites Expression of Interest (EOI) from interested Individuals, NGOs, Trusts, Charitable Institutions, Corporates etc., for the following work up to **11-00 Hrs. on 26-08-2022:**

Sl.	Name of the Station	Approx. Length of track approach	Name of work
1	Pandavapura	219 Sqm. at Pandavapur	Beautifications of Railway area/premises at station approaches along the track for development of green cover/patches by planting low height plants at its own costs.
2	Hassan	2750 Sqm. towards Arsikere end	
3	Arsikere	1000 Sqm. Arsikere Yard	
4	Shivamogga Town	6525 Sqm. LH side of Shivamogga Town yard	
5	Chitradurga	2100 Sqm. at Chitradurga	

The interested sponsoring Organization/parties are advised to forward their application by email to worksbranchmys@gmail.com or by Post
The allotted Organisations/party may display it's name with relevant details as per good industry practice on a maximum 10 Sq. ft. area (Temporary) no extra space /facilities for advertising/publicity shall be given to them

PUB/268/AAO/PRB/SWR/2022-23 **Divisional Railway Manager (Works), Mysuru**

S.W.Railways | swr_rly | SWRRLY | southwesternrailway | SWRRLY

PUBLIC NOTICE

Our clients are investigating the title of all that piece and parcel of property bearing Municipal No. 150-F2 (Old No. 150), situated at Harishchandra Road, Fort Mohalla, Mysore, (earlier portion of Survey No. 71, Mysore Kasaba Village, Kasaba Hobli, Mysore Taluk, Mysore) measuring in all about 7 Acre 23.04 Guntas morefully set out in the Schedule below and hereinafter referred to as "Schedule Property" from its present owner M/s Rohan Dream Homes Private Limited ("Owner").

Any person or persons asserting any right, title, interest or claim in the Schedule Property or any part thereof, in any manner whatsoever or having any claim against the Schedule Property or the documents thereof or against the Owner or objecting to such transaction with our clients, should write to the undersigned within fifteen days from the date of issuance of this notice with all documentary proof on which they are basing and asserting their rights with regard to Schedule Property or any part thereof, after which period our clients shall proceed on the basis that there are no claims of whatsoever nature with regard to the Schedule Property.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of property bearing Municipal No. 150-F2 (Old No. 150), situated at Harishchandra Road, Fort Mohalla, Mysore, (earlier portion of Survey No. 71, Mysore kasaba Village, Kasaba Hobli, Mysore Taluk, Mysore) measuring in all about 7 Acre 23.04 Guntas and bounded as follows:

EAST : Cremation Grounds in Survey No. 71 and 72;
WEST : Mysore Nilgiri Road;
NORTH : Vacant Land belonging to the Palace in Survey No. 71 and road formed in Survey No. 71,
SOUTH : Palace Vacant Land bearing Survey No. 81

(R.Sunitha), Advocate
IndusLaw, No. 34, 7th Cross, Vasanth Nagar, Cunningham Road, Bengaluru - 560 052
Phone: +91-80-4242 3000

BEFORE THE COURT OF HON'BLE PRINCIPAL DISTRICT JUDGE AT CHENGALPATTU
(Testamentary & Intestate Jurisdiction)
PROBATE O. P. No. 139 of 2019
In the matter of Indian Succession Act of 1925
And
In the matter of the Last Will of Late Mr. C. Sivasubramonia Pillai (deceased)

1. Mr. S. Ajay Kumar,
2. Mrs. A. Sowmya (Deceased)
3. S.V. Subramoniam (Legal Guardian)
4. Ms. Lakshita Sowmya (Minor)
Rep. By her Legal guardian

...*Petitioners*

Vs.

Mrs. L. Anandavally. ...*Respondent*

GENERAL NOTICE

The Petition was filed by the Petitioners herein for the grant of Letter of Administration of unregistered Will dated 16.07.2017, executed by late Mr.Siva Subramonia Pillai, the father of Petitioner 1 and Petitioner 2 (deceased). The legal heirs of petitioner 2 are impleaded here as Petitioner 3 and 4. The petition is now posted before Principal District Judge at Chengalpattu on 24.08.2022 at 10.30 a.m.

If anyone has objection on schedule property for mentioned below, they are required to appear before the Hon'ble Court and state their objection , failing which, it shall be deemed that there is no objection for grant of probate as prayed for by the Petitioners.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

One half of the undivided share in all that piece and parcel of the Site bearing No.229, bearing Mahadevapura CMC Khata No.384, as per Tax Paid Receipt bearing Khata No.650/2000-01, measuring an area of 2400 Sq.ft., formed in Survey No. 18/1the Layout "FERNS CITY" situated at Doddanekudi Village, KrishnarajapuraHobli, Bangalore South Taluk.

Advocate,
Hema Srinivasan, B. Asha,

Law Office Address:
No 7, 1st Floor, Nehru Nagar,
2nd Main Road Adyar, Chennai 600 020
Ph: 044-4857 7463

IN THE COURT OF THE CITY XXXVII ADDL. CIVIL AND SESSIONS COURT, AT BANGALORE. CCH – 38
O.S. No. 1484 / 2017

PLAINTIFFS :
1. Mrs. T.P. HEMALATHA, Hindu, Aged about 62 Years, W/o. B.K. Chandra Shekar,
2. Mr. B.K. CHANDRA SHEKAR, Hindu, Aged about 70 Years, S/o. Late A. Krishna Murthy
Both resident of No. 294, 8th Main, 4th Phase, J.P. Nagar, Dollars Colony, Bangalore – 560078.

Vs.

DEFENDANTS : Mr. B.C. ARUN KUMAR and others

SUIT SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT No. 1, 3, 4 AND 5 UNDER ORDER V RULE 20 (1-A) OF THE CIVIL PROCEDURE CODE :

1. Mr. B.C. ARUN KUMAR S/o. B.K. Chandra Shekar, Aged about 35 Years.
2. Mrs. LEELAVATHI W/o. Mr. P. Parthasarathy, Aged about 55 Years.
3. Mr. CHANDAN S/o. Mr. P. Parthasarathy, Aged about 27 Years.
4. Mr. NAGRAJ Father's Name Not Known, Hindu, Major.
All are Residing at ; Res at No. 44, 4th Cross, 5th D Main, 2nd Block, HRBR Layout, Kalyan Nagar, Bangalore–560043. **: DEFENDANTS**

WHEREAS the above names plaintiff has filed the above plaint under order VII Rule 1 of CPC, for permanent Injunction against defendants.

You are hereby summoned to appear before this on **06-09-2022 at 11.00 A.M.** in person or through advocate / pleader to answer the questions to the same, Failing which the suit will be heard and determined as exparte.

Given under my hand and seal of the Court, on this 26th Day of July 2022.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the immovable property being a house bearing No. 294, Situated at 8th Main Road, 4th Phase, Dollars Layout, formerly known as Sarakki Dollars Layout, J.P. Nagar, Bangalore - 560 078, Division No. 57 of BBMP and Measuring as follows : **East to West : 80 Feet, North to South : 50 Feet, Totally Measuring : 4000 Square Feet.**

Bounded as follows : **East by : Road, West by : Vacant Site bearing No. 261, North by : Site No. 293, Residential Building, South by : Site No. 295, Residential Building.**

By Order of the Court
Sd/- Assistant Registrar,
City Civil Court, Bangalore.

ADVOCATE FOR PLAINTIFFS :
A. FEROZE NIZAM, Advocate,
No. 1895, 5th Main Road, Cauvery Nagar, BSK 2nd Stage, Bangalore – 560 070.

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Gadde Raj Narayana R/o #8, 7th B2 Cross, Abbaiah Reddy Layout, Kaggadaspura, C.V Raman Nagar, B'lore - 560093 have changed my minor son name from G Venkat Sai Karthik to Gadde Venkat Sai Karthik.

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SHWETA Shankar Erandole, W/O. Rajendra Patil, R/O. F No 703, J Block, Ferns Paradise, Doddanekkundi, Chinnapanahalli Mn Rd, Blr–48, have changed name to Shweta Rajendra Patil vide affdvt dtd 05/08/22

I, RAJESHWAR Pandey S/o Late Paras Nath Pandey is father of Dineshwar Pandey R/at No.5, American House-02, Bhatathi Nagar, H M Halli, Bangalore-562157 have changed my name is Rajeshwar Pandey to Rajeshwar Prasad Pandey vide affidavit dated 20-07-2022 sworn before Notary H Sridhar, Bangalore.

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LEGAL NOTICE

BEFORE THE HON'BLE PRESIDENT DISTRICT CONSUMER FORUM-II, AT : VISAKHAPATNAM
C.C.120/2020
Between :
T. Narayana Rao, S/o. Papa Rao, M.D of cum Chairman of Kamakshi Hospitals and Research Centre Pvt. Ltd., Office at No.17/8, Health City, Chinagadili, Visakhapatnam-40. ...Complainant
And
Redclays Capital Pvt. Ltd.,
Rep. by its Chairman Srini Chakwal
...Opposite Party

NOTICE

To,
Opposite Party:
Redclays Capital Pvt. Ltd.,
Rep. by its Chairman Srini Chakwal, Office at Level-15, Concorde Towers, UB City Vittal Mallya Road, Bangalore-560001, India.

Please take notice that the above named complainant filed the above C.C. against you and the matter stands posted to **16-08-2022** for your appearance. Therefore you are hereby directed to appear before the Hon'ble Forum either in person or through duly instructed Advocate on **16-08-2022** at **10:30 A.M** in the above Hon'ble Forum to answer all material questions, failing which the matter will be heard and determined in your absence, exparte as per law.

KATTA SRINIVASA RAO, Advocate
Visakhapatnam (A.P) **Cell : 9440346267**

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SHUSILA Devi W/o Rajeshwar Prasad Pandey mother of Dineshwar Pandey R/at No.5, American House-02, Bharathi Nagar, H M Halli, Bangalore-562157 have changed my name is Shusila Devi to Sushila Devi vide affidavit dated 20-07-2022 sworn before Notary H Sridhar, Bangalore.

I, ANIMA Goyal D/O Shri Pawan Kumar R/O #15, Anaj Mandi, Kalanwali, Distt. Sirsa, Haryana - 125201, have changed my name from Anjali Goyal to Anima Goyal, sworn before Notary L. B. Anasuyamma, Bangalore (Karnataka).

LEGAL NOTICE

DRAFT PAPER PUBLICATION
IN THE COURT OF THE LXIII ADDITIONAL CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE AT BENGALURU (CCH-64)
O.S. NO. 2497/2021

Between:
M/s. ICICI Bank Limited, having its registered office at: Landmark, Race-Course Circle, Vadodara-390007 and branch office at: 4/10, Mythree Tower, Bommanahalli, Hosur Main Road, Bengaluru-560068 through its Authorised representative
Mr. Pramodh G. ....Plaintiff
And
Mr. Varun Vikas
...Defendant

SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION UNDER ORDER V RULE 20 OF CPC

Defendant :
Mr. Varun Vikas, S/o. Arun Yadav, Aged about 27 Years, Residing at Room No.3, 112, Chocolate Factory Road, Tavarekere, Near Ambika Pharma, Bengaluru- 560029.

Whereas the plaintiff above named has instituted the above suit for recovery of money for sum of Rs.5,85,381/- along with interest at the rate of 24% P.A. against you, and you are summoned to appear before the LXIII Addl. City Civil & Sessions Judge at Bengaluru (C.C.H-64), in person or by a pleader, on the day of 12/09/2022 at 11:00 A.M. to answer the claim, failing to which the suit would be disposed of Ex-Parte.

Given under my hand and seal of the court on this the 6th day of August 2022 at Bangalore.

By order of the Court
Assistant Registrar, Hon'ble City Court, Bengaluru

Advocate for Plaintiff
B.S. Jeevan Kumar, Vidhii Partners, Advocates, No. 701, Queens Corner 'A', #3 Queens Road, Bengaluru- 01.

THE HINDU
Text & Context

CACHE

Why are regulators swooping down on stablecoins?

How do stablecoins feature within the crypto market? What has led to the sudden scrutiny?

SAHANA VENUGOPAL

THE GIST

- A stablecoin is a digital currency whose value is pegged to a 'stable' asset, such as the U.S. dollar or gold. The best-known stablecoin in the crypto ecosystem today is Tether (USDT).
- For a cryptocurrency trader, tracking stablecoin flows can help them gauge the state of the market, or even make educated guesses about future cryptocurrency price movements.
- Stablecoins are only as stable as their investors' faith in the peg. In early July, the Financial Stability Board (FSB), a body which advises major economies on international finance, promised to push for stablecoin regulation, citing "recent turmoil" (the TerraUSD crash) in the cryptocurrency market.

The story so far: In early July, the Financial Stability Board (FSB), a body which advises major economies on international finance, promised to push for stablecoin regulation, citing "recent turmoil" in the cryptocurrency market. The international body said it is "working to ensure that crypto-assets are subject to robust regulation and supervision." The group is slated to report in October to G20 Finance Ministers and Central bank governors on regulatory and supervisory approaches to stablecoins and other crypto-assets. The FSB is not the only organisation seeking to regulate stablecoins. Last month, the European Commission and EU-based lawmakers agreed on the Markets in Crypto-Assets, or MiCA law, to enforce strict controls on the companies distributing cryptocurrencies classified as stablecoins.

What are stablecoins?

A stablecoin is a digital currency whose value is pegged to a 'stable' asset, such as the U.S. dollar or gold. The best-known stablecoin in the crypto ecosystem today is arguably Tether (USDT), whose market cap is close to $66 billion, putting it below Ethereum, the second largest cryptocurrency in existence.

1 USDT is meant to be worth 1 USD, though market factors can take prices slightly above or below this mark. Other stablecoins such as USD Coin (USDC) and Binance USD (BUSD) are also pegged to the U.S. dollar and are known for their high market cap values. Tether also recently launched a stablecoin pegged to the British pound. Stablecoins are not authorised for use by country lawmakers or central banks, which means that investors take on considerable legal and financial risk to hold them.

What roles do stablecoins play in the crypto ecosystem?

For a cryptocurrency trader, tracking stablecoin flows can help them gauge the state of the market, or even make educated guesses about future cryptocurrency price movements. For example, when the stablecoin supply on crypto exchanges spikes, it might be a sign that investors are cashing in their stablecoins to buy cryptocurrencies such as Bitcoin (BTC), Ether (ETH), or even other alt coins.

Stablecoins are not authorised for use by country lawmakers or central banks, which means that investors take on legal and financial risk to hold them

Many traders believe this can lead to upward price moves. On the other hand, if the stablecoin supply on crypto exchanges suddenly drops, one might conclude that traders are buying relatively steadier assets. This could mean traders want to hedge against future risk and volatility, or are driven by fear.

What are the use cases for stablecoins?

Across the world, stablecoins can serve as lifelines. In countries such as Turkey, Nigeria, and Argentina where the local currency is rapidly losing value, converting funds to stablecoins is one way for residents to try and safeguard their earnings. In Taliban-occupied Afghanistan, with remittance channels choked by U.S. sanctions, stablecoin transfers have helped a few crypto users live to see another day. For this reason, a large section of the crypto community does not want stablecoins to be controlled by centralised laws or standards.

How 'stable' are stablecoins?

Stablecoins are only as stable as their investors' faith in the peg. Tether has been dragged through the American legal system as investigators struggled to ascertain whether the top stablecoin company really backed every USDT against a U.S. dollar. This type of peg is called a "fiat collaterised" stablecoin. Tether's market cap, shooting up by billions of dollars in the past year and potentially threatening the balance of the U.S. dollar itself, did not help allay these fears.

In October 2021, the U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) ordered Tether to pay over $40 million, "for making untrue or misleading statements and omissions of material fact in connection with the U.S. dollar tether token (USDT) stablecoin," according to its press release. Tether's market cap – totalling more than $80 billion in April this year – has slipped down to around $66 billion in July.

How is the Terra fallout linked to stablecoins?

TerraUSD (UST) is an algorithmic stablecoin. It is linked to another token's supply. The other cryptocurrency, LUNA, is adjusted to help UST maintain its peg. This method of linking with another token helps keep crypto firms from buying reserve assets such as dollars or crypto or even gold. Yet shortly before its May crash, founder Do Kwon announced his plan to buy billions in Bitcoin and other assets to further strengthen the UST stablecoin – an ambition which did not pan out as expected.

Soon afterwards, a multitude of market factors and company failures collided, resulting in the UST stablecoin coming loose from its peg – before losing nearly 100% of its value. As billions of dollars were blown up in the May 2022 crash, partially due to UST, several other stablecoins like USDT also lost value temporarily as investors panicked.

Now, crypto analytics show a rising demand for USDT's rival USDC, which comes just below it in market cap. Roughly $11 billion divides the two stablecoins, and many are watching to assess how USDT faces its legal hurdles.

What is the path ahead for stablecoins?

The risks within the stablecoin ecosystem are very high. And now, as regulators step in, the market is expected to make traders more fearful. Terra is not the first or only fault line in the stablecoin market, and it won't be the last.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Friendship Day is celebrated on August 7. A quiz on some well-known and some unlikely friends from history

1 She was a popular Black singer who won 14 Grammy awards. In 1955, Marilyn Monroe booked a popular restaurant club for this singer and said she would go every night just to hear her "very favourite person sing". Who is this singer?

2 In the 20th century, these two authors dominated the world's imagination with their fantasy works. One of them was born in South Africa, the other in Ireland. They met at Oxford and shared a love for northern myth and language. When one of them passed away, the other wrote that his death felt like an "axe-blow near the roots." Who are these two writers?

3 This man, played by Jeremy Irons in a 2015 film, famously corresponded with a young, intelligent Tamil man over post before meeting him in England. He described that association as "the one romantic incident" in his life. He is known for formulating a famous principle of population genetics. He loved cricket. Who is he?

4 The young man arrived as a gift from India. He quickly became the queen's most trusted confidante. He taught her Urdu. When the queen died, her children burnt every letter she sent him. Who is this man, referred to as Munshi?

5 Speaking of Mark Twain, this woman, who lost her sight and hearing, said he treated her "not as a freak, but as a handicapped woman seeking a way to circumvent extraordinary difficulties". Who is this woman?

6 Speaking of this man, George Harrison said he did not make any attempt to impress Harrison but that Harrison was impressed by him. This man's collaboration with Harrison put Indian classical music on the global stage. This man's instrument was used in the 1965 Beatles song, 'Norwegian Wood'. Who is this man?

◄ This statue of man's best friend can be found in Shibuya, Japan. This dog was said to be inseparable from his owner, a professor of Tokyo University. The story of this dog and the professor has become an urban legend in Japan. What is the name of this dog?

Please send in your answers to the **dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in**

Questions (abridged) and Answers to the August 5 edition of the daily quiz: 1. The body of water which separates Taiwan from the Asian mainland. **Ans: Taiwan Strait**
2. The colours of the Taiwanese flag. **Ans: Red, Blue and White**
3. The Portuguese name for Taiwan. **Ans: Formosa**
4. The province in China from which majority of the initial Chinese migrants to Taiwan came from. **Ans: Fujian**
5. The founding father of the Republic of China. **Ans: Sun Yat-sen**
6. The Taiwanese company which accounts for more than 50% of the global semiconductors market. **Ans: The Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company, Limited (TSMC)**
Visual: Identify the building. **Ans: Taipei 101**

Early Birds: Om Shukla| Thajun Mawzoona| Ravindra Sahu| Rupam Kumari|

Compiled by: Radhika Santhanam

KNOW YOUR ENGLISH

Be chic, cool and casual

I am not phubbing you, I am merely reading the morning newspaper

S. UPENDRAN

What is the meaning of 'phubbing'? (C. Devika, Chittoor)

First, let us deal with the pronunciation of the word. The 'ph' sounds like the 'f' in 'fish' and 'fill'. The first syllable rhymes with 'tub', 'dub' and 'club'. The word is pronounced 'FUB-ing' with the stress on the first syllable. The introduction of the cell phone has changed our life in many ways. It has also resulted in a number of new words being coined. 'Phubbing' is one such example; it is a blend of two words – 'phone' and 'snubbing'. The word is the brainchild of an advertising company in Australia. We often snub people by not paying attention to them; we simply ignore them. In the case of 'phubbing', you achieve this by focussing on the phone; instead of talking to the people you are with, you snub them by constantly texting or reading your messages on the phone. You pay no attention to the people around you. It is something we have all been guilty of sometime or the other.

We were meeting after nearly ten years. Yet, he spent most of his time phubbing.

My neighbour resorts to phubbing whenever he sees me.

What is the difference in pronunciation between 'chick' and 'chic'? (G. Madhu, Vellore)

The two words are pronounced differently, and they have very different meanings as well. The 'ch' in 'chick' is pronounced like the 'ch' in 'chips', 'cheat' and 'chit'. The word rhymes with 'lick', 'pick' and 'sick'. The 'ch' in 'chic', on the other hand, sounds like the 'sh' in 'ship', 'shoe' and 'shed'. The following 'ic' sounds like the 'eek' in 'peek', 'seek' and 'cheek'. The word is pronounced 'SHEEK'. It comes from the French 'chic' meaning 'stylishness'. 'Chic' can be used both as a noun and an adjective to refer to the appearance of an individual. When you describe someone as being 'chic', what you are suggesting is that the person is very stylish; he/she is elegantly fashionable. The word also carries with it the sense that the currently fashionable clothes that the individual is wearing are expensive. It is possible to use 'chic' with things as well.

The new restaurant that my friend took me to yesterday was very chic.

These jeans are an example of contemporary chic.

The new-born baby of any bird – not just a hen – can be referred to as a 'chick'. We can talk about the chick of a vulture, crow, chicken, etc.

Is it okay to say, 'The former captain decided to unretire'? (M.V. Padma, Chennai)

Yes, it is. The word 'unretire' is included in many dictionaries. When you 'unretire', you come out of retirement, and join the workforce once again. You could be returning to your old job or you could be starting something new. The important thing is that you can 'unretire' only after you have officially retired from something. The example that you have given suggests that the captain had made an announcement earlier that he was quitting the game. Now he wishes to play again; therefore, he has chosen to 'unretire'.

We would like you to unretire and help us make this company great again.

upendrankye@gmail.com

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

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Text & Context
A weekday feature on *The Hindu* epaper (epaper.thehindu.com) which includes explainers, special articles and a quiz. In the latest issue (August 8, Monday), the following explainers are available:

- **Explained |** The workings of the Supreme Court collegium bit.ly/collegisc
- **Know your English** Be chic, cool and casual bit.ly/chickye
- **Explained |** The Great Barrier Reef's recovery and vulnerability to climate threats bit.ly/barrierreefami

Online exclusives
- **Watch |** What did the Supreme Court say on Revri Culture? bit.ly/revrisc
- **Read |** Presidential elections, BJP's Muslim outreach and more bit.ly/politicalline
- **In Frames |** Toy story bit.ly/lotstoys
- *You can use your smartphone's inbuilt features to access these articles. If it's an Android phone, use Google Lens to read and tap the url to access the article. If it's an iPhone, use Live Text on camera to do the same.*

Suburban rail work may see further delay as K-RIDE is headless

Despite over one-and-half months since laying of foundation by PM, no works have started on ground

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

At a crucial juncture, the Managing Director's post of the Rail Infrastructure Development Company (Karnataka) Limited - K-RIDE has fallen vacant. This is likely to delay further the ambitious suburban rail project.

The State government has not extended the tenure of Amit Garg, who held the post for three years. Mr. Garg, an IRSE (Indian Railway Service of Engineers) officer, will go back to his parent department, Indian Railways. The K-RIDE, a special purpose vehicle, is a joint venture of the Karnataka Government and the Ministry of Railways established to implement the 148 km suburban rail project in the city.

Suburban rail project
- The total project cost of the entire four corridors is ₹15,676 crore.
- In the first phase, the K-RIDE had chosen Baiyappanahalli - Chikkabanavara corridor for implementation.
- The other three corridors are KSR Bengaluru-Devanahalli that also connect Kempegowda International Airport, Kengeri to Whitefiled and Heelalige to Ranjankunte.
- As part of the rail networks, a total of 57 stations will come up and many of the stations will be integrated with existing and proposed metro stations, bus stands and railway stations.

40 months
On June 20, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had laid the foundation for the project and promised Bengalureans that the project will be a reality in 40 months. In the first phase, the K-RIDE had chosen the Baiyappanahalli - Chikkabanavara corridor for implementation. The tender was floated for the project in November 2021, but not started on ground. After the PM's promise, officials had maintained that work would start from August 15, but with the MD's post being vacant, it is unlikely to happen.

When contacted, Mr. Garg said, "My next assignment will depend upon the decision of the Ministry of Railways. There is a selection process to appoint the next MD. Now that I am out of the organisation, I do not want to comment." Replying to a question on whether he had sought for extension of tenure, he said, "I did ask for an extension of tenure, but it was not considered." He said that his tenure as MD of K-RIDE ended on July 25.

'Lack of seriousness'
Rail activist Sanjeev Dyamannavar said, "It is very unfortunate that the post of the head of the K-RIDE has fallen vacant. The suburban rail project is already delayed and it will be delayed further till the new MD is appointed. The State government should have continued the previous MD for six months or one year. It appears that no one is serious about implementing the suburban rail project and elected representatives are not showing any interest. The tenders are yet to be awarded for Baiyappanahalli-Chikkabanavara line and for the rest of the lines, no tenders have been floated. To give impetus to the project, a technocrat should be appointed as the MD. The suburban rail should not go the way of Namma Metro in missing deadlines."

IN BRIEF

Bike lifter arrested
BENGALURU
The K.R. Puram police on Sunday arrested a bike lifter and recovered 19 bikes worth ₹9 lakh from him. Shoib Khan, 21, from Devasandra, used to find bikes parked in front of houses and steal them. He would break the handlocks and take away the bikes and then sell them at throwaway prices without documents.

Hindu groups celebrate BBMP order

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

A day after the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) stated that the ownership of the Idgah Maidan in Chamarajpet is with Karnataka Revenue Department, various Hindu organisations on Sunday gathered near the maidan to celebrate the order.

Police watching over children playing at Idgah Maidan, in Bengaluru on Sunday. •K. MURALI KUMAR

The groups gathered near the ground and burst crackers, distributed sweets and announced that they will celebrate Independence Day on August 15 on the ground. S. Bhaskaran, president, Vishwa Sanathana Parishath, said, "This is a big victory to the residents of Chamarajpet. We will host the national flag on August 15 at the ground."

IDGAH MAIDAN ROW

Chamarajpet Nagareekara Okkuta Vedike member Lahari Velu, said, "After the BBMP order, it is like a festival today for all the residents of Chamarajpet. We were all fighting for the ground for the last decade."

On Saturday, the city's civic body dismissed the petition filed by the Karnataka State Board of Auqaf for a khata in its favour for Idgah Maidan at Chamarajpet (Survey number 40, Guttahalli village, 2 acres 5 guntas), and declared Karnataka Revenue Department to be the default owner of the land.

City survey records had recorded the land as a playground of the civic body, a claim that has also been given up now, with the civic body deciding to record 'Karnataka Revenue Department' as owner in its records. S.M. Srinivas, Joint Commissioner (West), BBMP, who presided over the proceedings, issued the order.

The decades-old dispute over Idgah Maidan was reignited in May-June, 2022, when a few Hindutva organisations sought permission of the civic body to hold events at the maidan. This brought out two contrary sets of documents - Karnataka State Board of Auqaf presenting a 1965 gazette notifying the land as Wakf property, and 1974 City Survey records and all civic records thereafter showing the land to be a civic playground.

Pet dog rescued from owner

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

The Anti-Cruelty Officer from People for Animals (PFA), along with the police, rescued a 1.5 year old pet dog from a house in Avalahalli on Friday. The dog, Sweety, was allegedly being beaten and tortured by its owner on the pretext of discipline and training.

Sweety has been handed over to Sanjana Madappa, Trustee of Second Chance Sanctuary, for rehabilitation. A case was filed by Tarun K. Agarwal, the Anti-Cruelty Officer from PFA against the owner of the dog, identified as Venkatesh Prasad, 38, a techie, residing in Mathrushree Layout, Maragondanhalli village, on the outskirts of Bengaluru.

Based on the complaint, the Avalahalli police charged Prasad under IPC Sections 289 (Negligent conduct with respect to animals) and 428 (mischief by killing, poisoning, maiming or rendering useless any animals or animal). The police have summoned Prasad to appear before the investigating officer for questioning.

Blood reports and vet investigations at the hospital revealed that Sweety had undergone immense trauma and is very stressed. "She needs to be treated in a safe and calm environment. She is friendly with everyone. However, when someone tries to bring their hand towards her to pet, for a few seconds, she gets super anxious and we can see fear in her eyes. She reacts thinking the person might hit her," Mr. Agarwal said, based on the feedback he got from those fostering her.

FROM PAGE ONE

Over half of BMTC AC bus fleet idle

In city limits, Vajra services earns ₹47 per km, whereas Vayu Vajra services operated to Kempegowda International Airport earns ₹55 to ₹60 per km. However, the official said the reduced fare structure for the Vajra AC buses will continue.

In the past, BMTC won praise for introducing AC bus services for city transport. The corporation has invested hundreds of crores for procurement of AC buses. For over two years, the AC bus fleet remained underutilised. Mr. Sen said: "It is a matter of time. When fuel prices drop, BMTC will introduce more AC bus services in city."

However, commuters have a different take. Abhilash, a regular traveller, said: "BMTC reducing the bus fare applicable for AC buses helped in a big way. People have shifted from taxis to AC buses as they are cheaper. I have seen buses running packed during the peak hours as more people could afford the fare now."

Timings
BENGALURU

MONDAY, AUG. 08		
RISE	06:06	SET 18:44
RISE	15:15	SET 01:49
TUESDAY, AUG. 09		
RISE	06:07	SET 18:44
RISE	16:20	SET 02:50
WEDNESDAY, AUG. 10		
RISE	06:07	SET 18:43
RISE	17:25	SET 03:57

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	28	24
Mysuru	27	21
Bengaluru	24	20

Bengaluru Today
26°C The weather will be comfortable but humid. Night will be pleasant. Spell of light rain and thundershower will occur.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
29°C The weather will be slight warm and humid. Night will be pleasant. Short spell of light rain and thundershower is likely.

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Steer your interest

Uncertain about your career options? Low on self-confidence? This Q&A column may help

OFF THE EDGE

NANDINI RAMAN

I have done an MBA in HR and Marketing and am working for women empowerment in the development sector. What courses can I do to grow in the corporate CSR sector? - Arushi

Dear Arushi,

There are many diplomas, certification courses, and Women Leadership programmes available under "Woman Empowerment and Development" distance education or online MOOCs that sensitise development workers on gender issues and impart necessary expertise on women's issues.

Find a good course from institutions like IGNOU, talentedge.com, Kellogg Executive Education, learningguild.com, or platforms like Coursera, Khan Academy, EdX, Udacity. Make sure that you sign up only after you are convinced by the curriculum, the faculty, and the university/school. Women are also trained under the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (https://www.msde.gov.in) where skill training is provided to stimulating employment opportunities across various socio-economic levels.

I'm a graduate with Computer Science as a subject. I am now wondering whether to pursue MCA or MBA. I don't like coding so don't want to do an MCA. But an MBA means changing my field. What should I do? - Vishal

Dear Vishal,

It is true that an MCA must be good at programming and coding. It is technical education, a professional degree with a lot of value. It is in demand now and you can attract high salaries across the IT sector. An MBA, on the other hand, will give you a greater insight into global markets, improve your communication skills and overall personality, expand your professional network, increase job opportunities (not only in core domains but also in various other industries), and your earning potential will increase. You can eventually move to a management or a leadership role. So think from the perspective of what would you enjoy five years from now and then make an informed decision.

I am currently pursuing a Diploma in Organic Agriculture but am not very confident about clearing the AGRICET. What are my other options for higher education in India? - Sunny

Dear Sunny,

You could consider a PG certificate course in Agriculture Policy (PGCAP), Agriculture and Horticulture, Agricultural Extension Management (PGDAEM), in Agribusiness, and so on. https://education.icar.gov.in has many courses to choose from. The Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) is India's premier institution in the field of agricultural research, higher education in agriculture (postgraduate programme) and extension education. There is also a National Agricultural Higher Education Project. They have very interesting events, training, and projects that you can work on and learn with.

I have completed my UG in Public Policy and Anthropology. What are the career opportunities in India and abroad associated with Anthropology? What can I do next? - Pravalika

Dear Pravalika,

Your possible career paths include international development, cultural resource management, forensic and physical anthropology, natural resource management, health and public service, information resources, defense and security sectors, academic careers, non-profit community-based careers, government or corporate, business careers if you plan to work. You could also do a Masters's (MA) in Social Anthropology and Social Policy, Politics, Anthropology, and Policy Management from a recognised college/university in India/ abroad.

Disclaimer: This column is merely a guiding voice and provides advice and suggestions on education and careers.

The writer is a practising counsellor and a trainer. Send your questions to eduplus.thehindu@gmail.com with the subject line 'Off the edge'.

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Spotlight on Asia-Pacific

The mission of the HPAIR ACONF 2022 is simple: to connect the captains of today with the leaders of tomorrow.

MURALI N. KRISHNASWAMY

GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK PHOTO

When Soham Roy and Yogesh Chadha attended the Harvard Project for Asian and International Relations virtually in January 2021 as HCONF delegates, they spotted an opportunity for Indian youngsters to reap the benefits from such a 'high-impact' platform. The conference over, they formed a team and submitted a bid book in May 2021. After nearly a year-long wait following competitive bidding and a series of interviews, they found that they had won.

The result: India has bagged this year's bid – for the first time in 30 years – to host the HPAIR ACONF 2022. The event will be held from August 20-24, 2022 at the IIIT-Delhi, in New Delhi. There will be graduates, undergraduates pursuing masters, working professionals, researchers, thought leaders and entrepreneurs – about 40-plus speakers and 500-plus participants worldwide in the 18-24 age bracket in the online and offline modes.

What it is about

Founded in 1991, the Harvard College Project for Asian and International Relations (HPAIR) – an independent non-profit organisation at Harvard College – has found a niche for itself in spotlighting key economic, political, and social issues that confront the Asia-Pacific region. It engages leaders and managers in various spheres to interact with students and young professionals.

A well-knit undergraduate community within Harvard University, HPAIR anchors two global conferences in a year: HCONF in Boston and the Asia Conference (ACONF), which is held in a selected Asia-Pacific city. The mission is simple: to connect the captains of today with the leaders of tomorrow.

Highlights

What is the format like? And what can a participant look forward to in New Delhi? According to Roy and Chadha – co-presidents, Host Country Organising Committee (India), HPAIR ACONF 2022 – there is much engagement and interaction across a subject spectrum. Nishtha Mukherjee, Associate Marketing and Communication, Host Country Organising Committee (India), adds that there will be panel discussions and fireside chats (with moderators) under what can be called formally and informally structured sessions. Another feature is 'Keynotes', where the speaker shares his or her thoughts on an assigned topic; it also has a brief 'Q&A' session at the end. There will also be 'HPAIRX', where delegates will be invited to speak about their ideals.

Roy says that the heart of the programme lies in 'Impact Challenges' or what is known as the 'apex of HPAIR's academic programming', drawing from the lessons and skills gained from the conference. Here, there will be distinct cases for participants to work on and offer solutions, the idea being to help participants network with industry professionals, experts and other participants from around the world.

On the lighter side, there will be a 'Desi Night' to highlight India's food, culture, and heritage from every State while the 'International Night' will focus on the delegate country culture.

What should pique participant interest are the topics and subject areas. The first is 'Art, media and culture', as art has acquired new dimensions in the new age. Then there is 'Science and technology' where, with the digital age enveloping almost every geographical boundary, companies need to be more agile as well as innovation and technology-driven. 'Global markets and economy' will look at the opening of new sectors such as digital security and data science. Another key area in focus is 'Energy, environment and sustainability', with the global race having commenced to adopt cleaner technologies and green alternatives. 'Governance and geopolitics' is a standout area as the era of digitalisation is leading to greater transparency in governance and policy. At the same time, overcoming the digital divide is a major challenge. Finally, 'Social policy and justice' will highlight the democratisation of data in a digital economy, creating more opportunities for people from varied economic and cultural backgrounds, says Mukherjee.

Speakers

This is an event that has seen personalities such as Ban-Ki-Moon, the former Secretary-General of the United Nations and Kevin Rudd, the former Prime Minister of Australia.

This year, participants can look forward to listening to Geoff Ralston, Partner and President at Y Combinator; Mina Hsiang, United States Digital Service (USDS) Administrator; Aditya Ghosh, Co-Founder, Akasa Air, and former President and Director, IndiGo Airlines; Kunal Shah, Founder of CRED; Deepak Bagla, CEO and MD, Invest India; Lesly Goh, Senior Technology Adviser and former CTO of the World Bank; and Manish Malhotra, fashion and Bollywood costume designer, among others.

For details, visit https://www.hpair.org/

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Outflow from KRS crosses 1 lakh cusecs

This is owing to heavy rainfall in the catchment areas; people living in low-lying areas alerted

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MYSURU

The outflow from the Krishnaraja Sagar (KRS) reservoir in Mandya district crossed 1 lakh cusecs on Sunday evening owing to heavy rainfall in the catchment areas of rivers Cauvery and Hemavathi.

Dam authorities confirmed that the outflow from the Hemavathi reservoir in Gorur in Hassan district had been stepped up, which has augmented the rate of inflow into the KRS. Similarly, heavy rain in the catchment area of the Cauvery in Kodagu district since the last few days has augmented the volume of water in all the rivulets and tributaries of the Cauvery, including the Lakshmanthirtha, all of which flow into the KRS.

Besides, the KRS attained its full reservoir level of 124.8 feet in July and hence the authorities have to match the outflow with the corresponding inflow for safety reasons and cannot impound water.

The KRS dam attained its full reservoir level of 124.8 feet in July. •FILE PHOTO

As the combined inflow into the KRS from the Cauvery and its tributaries was at the rate of 91,637 cusecs, the dam authorities increased the outflow from the reservoir which was at the rate of 1,00,719 cusecs as at 6 p.m. on Sunday. This is for the first time during the current monsoon season that the rate of outflow has crossed the 100,000 cusecs mark.

Sources said depending on the rains and the inflow, the rate of outflow too will be stepped up. As a result, people living in the downstream of the KRS reservoir have been warned to move to safer places along with their livestock. Wellesely Bridge, Ranganathittu, Sangama, and Paschimavahini in Srirangapatana will bear the brunt of increase in outflow and will be out of bounds for tourists. The district administration of Charamajanagar had already issued a warning advising people living in the tail-end regions on the banks of river Cauvery in Kollegal taluk to move to safer locations. While the outflow from the KRS is above 1,00,000 cusecs, the outflow from the Kabini is at the rate of 25,000 cusecs. The impact of the combined outflow from the KRS and the Kabini reservoirs will be felt in places like Mulluru, Hale Hampapura, Dasanapura, Haleanagalli, Harale, Saraguru, Dhanagere, Yedakuriya, Sattegala and a few other villages.

Meanwhile, the cumulative outflow from the KRS and the Kabini since June 1 has crossed 153 thousand million cubic ft (tmcft), according to the Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre.

Tourism conclave evokes warm response

Ramanagaram district administration presents prominent tourist places in four different clusters

B.S. SATISH KUMAR
GALIBORE (RAMANAGARAM DISTRICT)

The stakeholders responded positively to the efforts by Ramanagaram district administration to showcase the tourism investment potential of this district as a large number of key players in hospitality, adventure, and eco tourism sectors turned up for the tourism conclave held in Galibore recently.

Said to be the first-ever district-level tourism conclave, the event saw participation of rock climbing experts, facilitators of agri and culture tourism, besides representatives from hotel chains and associations.

The tiny district of Ramanagaram houses varied tourist spots ranging from rock climbing to water sports, ancient temples, cultural abodes, forest, geographical indication-based Channapatna wooden toys and South Asia's biggest silk industry on the one hand, and its proximity to Bengaluru on the other.

Higher Education Minister C.N. Ashwath Narayan, who is also in-charge of Ramanagaram district, noted that the district administration was trying to project Ramanagaram as a place for stressed out Bengalureans to relax for a day or two without having to travel long distance.

Higher Education Minister C.N. Ashwath Narayan taking a ride on a coracle at Cauvery river, near Sangama, in Ramanagaram after inaugurating the Ramanagaram Tourism Investors Conclave 2022. •K. MURALI KUMAR

He pointed out that English movie *Passage to India*, Bollywood classic *Sholay*, and Kannada matinee idol Dr. Rajkumar's evergreen *Bangarada Manushya* and *Huliya Haalina Mevu* were shot here.

Presenting the tourism potential of the district, Ramanagaram Deputy Commissioner Avinash Menon said the tourist places in the district had been broadly categorised into four circuits covering 21 prominent areas – Manchanabele dam, Kanva reservoir, Iggaluru dam and Sangama. Famous tourist spots like Savanadurga hills, vulture sanctuary, Janapada Loka, Mekedatu, Sangama, Kanva reservoir, Thippagondanahalli reservoir, Manchanabele reservoir, Revana Siddeshwara Betta and Ramadevara Betta were among these clusters.

Giving a brief description of tourist clusters, Mr. Menon said the uniqueness of the tourism potential of Ramanagaram was the variety that it offered. The district which was ruled by Hoysala, Rashtrakoota and Mysuru dynasties also houses the birth place of Bengaluru founder Kempe Gowda, he pointed out.

The district also boasted of a winery with wine tasting facility.

It is also a prominent producer of silk, mango and banana, he said and pointed out that an integrated textiles park too would come up in the district.

He said the district administration would ensure that a single-window clearance scheme would be in place for investors and operators in the tourism sector.

The district administration also focused its attention at the conclave on agri tourism.

Will Ramanagaram host open water swimming championship?

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GALIBORE

The Swimming Federation of India is open to the idea of having a national open water swimming championship in Ramanagaram, according to the representatives of adventure tourism sector.

Participating in the Ramanagaram district tourism enclave, they said that a communication in this regard was expected to reach the authorities soon.

While they had already identified Kanva reservoir for it, a couple of more spots were also expected to be identified, they noted.

Similarly, the Ramanagaram district was expected to host a mega rock climbing event by December this year.

Prominent tourist attractions

- Channapatna toys
- Silk industry
- Ramadevara Betta, Revana Siddeshwara Betta, and Savanadurga Hills
- Kanva, Manchanabele, Thippagondanahalli, and Iggaluru dams
- Sangama and Mekedatu water spots
- Janapada Loka folklore museum
- Galibore nature camp
- Vulture sanctuary
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CORRIDORS OF POWER

Riders on riding

The Dakshina Kannada district and Mangaluru City police, guided by ADGP (Law and Order) Alok Kumar *(in picture)*, came under extensive social media trolling when they announced that a two-wheeler rider cannot have a male aged between 18 and 60 as the pillion rider between 6 p.m. and 6 a.m. from August 4.

As the coastal district witnessed three consecutive murders since July 21, the restriction was ostensibly being imposed to thwart any possible crime by miscreants riding two-wheelers. However, within about four hours of the announcement, the Police Commissioner withdrew the curbs.

The announcement of restrictions had enraged residents of the district who were already affected by the night curfew between 6 p.m. and 6 a.m. since July 29. But many turned the whole thing into a big joke with multiple memes and funny jibes online. The reversal of the order also spawned as many jokes and memes. One of the videos that went viral had a scooter with one person riding and a grown man sitting in the space between the front seat and the handle to get around the pillion rule.

Humbled politicians

Politicians love riding motorcycles during protest rallies, as they make for a good photo opp. But luxury cars are their preferred mode of transport when the ride is long.

However, it wasn't a smooth ride for elected members heading to Davangere to participate in Leader of the Opposition Siddaramaiah's 75th birthday celebrations. Finding space for their cars to get past amidst the milling crowds, all headed to the event venue, was next to impossible. All four-wheelers were stuck in miles of traffic jam, and as their MP Rahul Gandhi was scheduled to attend the event, they were not in a position to wait for eternity.

Finally, they were forced to get help from motorcyclists. One by one, the VIPs had a triple ride to the event venue with one bodyguard riding pillion with them. But those who didn't get any helpful motorcyclists had a long wait only to reach the venue during concluding moments of the grand event.

Unusual demand

Krishna Das *(in picture)*, Hassan district convener of Dalit Sangharsha Samiti, recently staged a protest against Deputy Commissioner R. Girish with an unusual demand. He wanted the DC to return a photograph of the architect of the Constitution, B.R. Ambedkar, that he had given to the officer two years ago. It was a gift

along with a plea seeking grant of land for Dalit families who were freed as bonded labourers decades ago.

Without wearing a shirt, Mr. Das sat on a dharna alone in front of the DC's chamber. He told the media that his intention was to get back the photograph from the DC, arguing that the officer could not keep it as he had failed to grant the land to the needy.

The DC met him and appealed to him to withdraw the protest, assuring that he would convene a meeting on this issue within a couple of days. However, Mr. Das did not budge. "I know the DC will not grant land. There have been 30-40 meetings on the same problem in the past," he said.

He ended the protest by evening only after the DC's staff took the trouble to find the portrait and handed it over to him.

RAGHAVA M.
GIRISH PATTANASHETTI
SATHISH G.T.

Prakash Raj gives 'zero marks' to BJP govts. at Centre and State

He says he would have given 'minus' had it been allowed

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MYSURU

Multilingual actor Prakash Raj said he would give "zero marks" to the BJP government at the Centre and the State.

Reacting to queries from reporters at an interaction programme organised by Mysuru District Journalists' Association (MDJA) here on Sunday, Mr. Raj said he would have given "minus" in the report card of both the governments had it been allowed. However, he said he was giving zero marks as minus was not allowed and added that any score "below 30 marks is fail".

He went on to find fault with the government for removing restrictions on purchase of agricultural land, besides doing little to create jobs and reining in the prices of essential commodities. The increase in prices of petrol had cascading effect on all essential commodities, he pointed out while questioning how can one run a government without vision.

When his attention was drawn to the efforts made to inspire patriotism among people through programmes like Tiranga Yatra, Mr. Raj called upon the BJP to instead promote patriotism by reducing prices of essential commodities and providing jobs.

He also criticised the BJP government for permitting the use of polyster to create national flags while workers in handloom units were without jobs. He questioned the government's move to impose GST on milk. "How can I give you marks?" he asked.

Dasara elephants begin journey to Mysuru

This signals the countdown to the famed 10-day festival

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MYSURU

The first batch of nine caparisoned elephants that will take part in the Mysuru Dasara from September 26 to October 5 began their journey from Veeranahosahalli on the outskirts of Nagarahole Tiger Reserve to the city on Sunday.

Signaling the countdown to the famed 10-day festival for which Mysuru is renowned, the elephants led by the tusker Abhimanyu embarked on Gajapayana, their stately march from the jungle camps to the city of palaces.

The nine elephants led by Abhimanyu, who is slated to carry the golden howdah during the Jamboo Savari on Vijayadashami, were offered special prayers to mark the occasion.

During the days of the maharajas, Gajapayana entailed the elephants march on foot from the jungles to Mysuru – a distance of more than 70 km – ahead of Dasara. But the ritual was discontinued and revived about 20 years ago. However, in the present times, it is symbolic and the caparisoned elephants – which arrive from various jungle camps to Veeranahosahalli in Hunsur taluk of Mysuru district beforehand – cover a short distance on foot after which they are transported to Mysuru by trucks.

Special prayers being conducted ahead of the Gajapayana at Veeranahosahalli in Hunsur taluk of Mysuru district on Sunday. •M.A. SRIRAM

Forest Minister Umesh Katti, district in-charge Minister S.T. Somashekar, and other elected representatives took part in the rituals and special prayers conducted for the elephants between 9.01 a.m. and 9.35 a.m.

Apart from Abhimanyu, the other elephants of the first batch are Arjuna, Dhananjaya, Mahendra, Bhima, Chaitra, Gopalswamy, Kaveri, and Lakshmi. The priest chanted hymns and performed "mangalaarati" for their safety and collective welfare of the society and this was preceded by ceremonial welcome of the elephants with "Poornakumbha".

Prayers completed, the caparisoned elephants began their march with the accompaniment of cultural and folk troupes coupled with ensemble of traditional musicians playing nadaswara and beating drums in the backdrop.

MLA Manjunath, MLC A.H. Vishwanath, Deputy Commissioner Bagadi Gautham, Superintendent of Police Chetan, ZP CEO Poornima, Deputy Conservator of Forests V. Karikalan, and others were present.

The elephants will be accorded a ceremonial reception at the palace main gate on August 10 and the herd will camp in the palace grounds till the conclusion of the festival. In the interim, the elephants will be subjected to rehearsal daily so as to familiarise them with the procession route and get them accustomed to the din and noise of the city.

Second batch

The second batch of elephants comprising Srirama, Vijaya, Parthasarthy, Vikrama, and Gopi will join Abhimanyu and team in the next few days.

Man found dead, locals suspect elephant attack

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HASSAN

A person who had gone missing for the past three days was found dead at Kallutho-ta village in Sakleshpur taluk on Saturday evening.

The deceased has been identified as Ramakrishna, 70, a writer in a coffee estate. The local people suspected it to be a case of death due to an elephant attack.

They said many elephants had been roaming in the area for last few days and Ramakrishna could have been attacked by one among them.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE

Dr. M.C. RAVINDRA NATH
(08-08-1950 : 09-08-2012)
A father, a friend, a mentor, a leader, an educationist, Founder of Oxford Institutions, Nagarabhavi & Ullal, Bengaluru. Who inspired us in embracing core values in building and continuing his legacy.

Family: Mrs. Usha Ravindra Nath, Dr. B.R. Supreeth, Mrs. Sharada Supreeth, Dr. B.R.Prakrutha Aditya, Sri. Aditya Rao, B.S. Praanjala, B.S. Ravisimha, Chi. Avyukth Students & Staff members.

OXFORD INSTITUTIONS

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given to the public that we are investigating the right, title, interest, benefits, entitlements of whatsoever nature of the respective owner of the Survey Numbers, as mentioned herein below, all are situated at, Solur Village, Kundana Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District, which is more particularly described in the Schedule hereunder written and hereinafter called "**Schedule Property**".

ALL persons including an individual anybody under law, having any objection, claim, right, title and/or interest in respect of said Property or any part or portion thereof are hereby requested to inform the same in writing, supported with the original documents, to the undersigned having their office at No.115/58, 1st Floor, 2nd Main Road, 6th Cross, Chamarajpet, Bangalore-560 018 within a period of **14 (Fourteen) days** from the date of publication of this notice, failing which, the claim or claims, if any, of such person or persons shall be considered to have been waived and/or abandoned.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the land bearing **Survey No. 204, measuring 02 Acres 32 Guntas, situated at Soluru Village, Kundana Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk**, and bounded as follows:

East by: Sy. No.209,
West by: Kodi Halla and Sy. No.202,
North by: Sy. No.205,
South by: Sy. No.210.

Sd/-
Mr. Madhusudhana H.R, Advocate,
No.115/58, 1st Floor, 2nd Main Road, 6th Cross, Chamarajpet, Bangalore-560 018.
Phone: +91 98451 92477
Date: 07.08.2022

Kolar District Co-Operative Milk Producer's Societies Union Limited., Kolar
[P.B No. 63, N.H-75, Huthur Post, Kolar – 563102. Karnataka]
(Ph.No 08152-282 310/350/331, 7760964517,
E-Mail- komulpurchase@yahoo.com)

IFT No.KMU/ PUR/ E-PROCUREMENT/3779/2022-23 Date: 06.08.2022

**** E-PROCUREMENT SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION ****

The Kolar Milk Union Ltd.,Kolar invites tenders from eligible Tenderers for the supply of the following materials.

#	Description of Material	Qty In No's
Supply of 3 Ply Corrugated Boxes to pack following Good Life variants for Six months to Kolar Dairy		
1	100 ml Fino Packs Toned / Smart with Partitions Single Colour Printing	8,00,000
2	180 ml Fino Packs Toned / Smart with Partitions Single Colour Printing	26,00,000
3	500 ml Fino Packs Toned / Slim with Partitions Single Colour Printing	9,00,000
4	500 ml Bnk Packs Toned (Slim / Smart / Toned + without Partitions Single Colour Printing	8,50,000
5	1000 ml Bnk Packs Cow's Milk / Toned / Toned + / Gold / Slim / Smart without Partitions Single Colour Printing	14,00,000
6	1000 ml Customised Coffe Day Toned Bnk Packs without Partitions 3 Colour Printing	1,50,000

IFT No. KCMU/ PUR/ E-PROCUREMENT/ 3782 /2022-23 Date: 06.08.2022

#	Description
1	Insurance Coverage for Plant and Machinery at Kolar Dairy
2	Insurance Coverage for Good Life Milk Transit for KOMUL

Access to E-tender Documents : 08.08.2022 to 23.08.2022 05.30 PM
Last date for submission : on or before 23.08.2022, 05.30 PM
Date of opening of Tech. Tender : 25.08.2022, 11.00 AM onwards
Tender documents may be downloaded from e-procurement website https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in/

IFT No. KCMU/ PUR/ E-PROCUREMENT/ 3780 /2022-23 Date: 06.08.2022

**** E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTIFICATION ****

#	Description of Material	Qty
1	Supply of HDPE Milk Crates on ARC Basis to KOMUL	42,000 No's

IFT No. KCMU/ PUR/ E-PROCUREMENT/ 3781 /2022-23 Date: 06.08.2022

#	Description of Material	Qty
1	Supply of Durox LR Grade Hydrogen Peroxide through carboys on ARC Basis to KOMUL	60,000 Kgs
2	Supply of Bottle Coolers 200 Ltrs on ARC Basis	100 No's
3	Supply of Bottle Coolers 400 Ltrs on ARC Basis	50 No's
4	Supply of Visi Coolers 350 Ltrs on ARC Basis	100 No's
5	Supply of IWS inner wrap film for processed Cheese Slice on ARC Basis	10,000 Kgs
6	Supply,installation, testing and commissioning of portable,semi-automated, vertical being machine with automatic tying feature for KOMUL	01 No

Access to E-tender Documents : 08.08.2022 to 08.09.2022 05.30 PM
Last date for submission : on or before 08.09.2022, 05.30 PM
Date of opening of Tech. Tender : 10.09.2022, 11.00 AM onwards
Tender documents may be downloaded from e-procurement website https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in/

Sd/- M.D.KOMUL

Fear grips habitations near Sakthi School in Kallakurichi

After the riots, the police arrested youth and able-bodied persons indiscriminately on suspicion: villagers

S. PRASAD
KALLAKURICHI

A sense of fear and anxiety pervades the hamlets around Kaniyamoor near Chinna Salem, where large-scale violence occurred at a private school 20 days ago following the death of a Class XII girl student.

Villagers allege that the police have indiscriminately arrested youths and able-bodied men from these habitations on suspicion of their involvement in the rioting and arson. Properties of the Sakthi Matriculation Higher Secondary School and police vehicles, worth several crores of rupees, were destroyed during the violence on July 17.

Mallika and Selvaraj, parents of Kudiarasu and Vasanth, who were arrested in connection with the violence. •SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Most of those picked up by the police for "interrogation" have not returned to their families.

Dreams shattered

Bleak future and shattered dreams are written large on the faces of a few families. For N. Selvaraj, a sanitary worker of the Chinna Salem town panchayat, and his wife S. Mallika, of Gandhi Nagar, a Dalit habitation near the school, the arrest of their two sons has left them shattered.

The couple's sons – S. Kudiarasu, 26, a postgraduate in mathematics, and his brother S. Vasanth, 25, a B.Tech graduate – were preparing for the Group IV examinations of the Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission (TNPSC).

"Both my sons were arrested on the day of the violence. They were preparing for the Group IV examinations and had attended a model exam conducted by a private IAS academy in Kallakurichi that very day [July 17]. They went to a relative's house after the exam for lunch and were returning home when a police team detained and questioned them in connection with the violence," says Mr. Selvaraj.

"Despite their explaining that they were returning from an IAS training academy and producing their hall tickets for the Group IV examinations, scheduled on July 24, the police refused to believe them. They snatched their mobile phones and tore their hall tickets before detaining them," he alleges. "How can my sons be involved in the violence when they were attending classes at an IAS training academy," he asks in an agitated voice.

Showing photocopies of CCTV footage of her sons entering and leaving the IAS training academy on July 17, Ms. Mallika says the family also submitted copies of the footage to Collector Sravan Kumar Jatavath. "They had entered the academy around 10.17 a.m. and left around 1.13 p.m. [when the violence had almost ended]. My sons had dreamt of clearing the Group IV examinations. But now the police have spoiled their career. Even if they are found not guilty and released, it would forever remain a black mark on their careers. The government owes us an answer," she says.

A similar account was shared by Kesavan, an Adi Dravidar, hailing from Periyeri, a Dalit habitation located a few kilometres from the school, at Thalaivasal in neighbouring Salem district.

A senior official in the Kallakurichi district administration told *The Hindu*, "The police have been probing from various angles. However, some innocent people have landed in the net unknowingly."

When contacted, a senior police officer denied that innocent persons were arrested.

Tamilisai hears student grievances

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NIRMAL

"I have come to visit the Rajiv Gandhi University of Knowledge Technologies (RGUKT) at Basar in Nirmal district to give moral support to the students as a mother to see to it that their problems are resolved in a time-bound manner," said Telangana Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan on Sunday.

The students had earlier staged protests seeking good quality food in the hostel mess, laptops and latest subject books in the library.

She gave a patient hearing to the students in their hostel rooms. She held discussions with RGUKT in-charge Vice-Chancellor Venkataramana and the faculty members.

Cong. to distribute national flags for free

Bommai urged to announce 50% discount for metro travellers on August 15

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

As the State gears up to celebrate Har Ghar Tiranga - Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, the Congress on Sunday said that it was distributing flags for free for those who have registered for its programmes on August 15.

"BJP friends have fixed ₹25 for a flag in the Har Ghar Tiranga programme. They could have given them for free. We are distributing 1.5 lakh national flags, caps and t-shirts for free," KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar told presspersons here on Sunday.

Stating that about 29,000 people have registered for the Congress' programme to celebrate the 75th year of Independence, Mr. Shivakumar said that a freedom walk holding national flags from Sangolli Rayanna Circle to Freedom Park will be held in morning and a non-political cultural programme will be held in the evening, in which members of various associations, artists and students among others will take part.

While requesting Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai to announce a 50% discount for those travelling in metro on August 15, he said: "It would be better for those coming for our programme to use railway and metro services to reduce vehicle traffic." Mr. Shivakumar said: "This is a national festival and we have to celebrate it with pomp. We will not get another opportunity. Some have come forward to create tableaus too." When asked who from the AICC would be attending the celebrations, he said: "This programme has been conceived by AICC and I cannot tell now who from there will come. There are programmes in other States and they will decide who will come here."

50 LSD blots seized from five youths in Visakhapatnam

STAFF REPORTER
VISAKHAPATNAM

In a major catch, the Anti-Narcotic Cell of the City Task Force (CTF), in coordination with the city police, busted a drug racket and arrested five youths, for allegedly being involved in peddling of drugs under the IV Town Police Station limits, here on Saturday night.

The police teams have seized 50 Lysergic Acid Diethyl Amide(LSD) blots and 4.4 grams of white powder, which is suspected to be MDMA. This apart, five mobile phones and a car were also seized from them.

The police found that the accused were planning to supply these synthetic drugs to some unidentified consumers from Visakhapatnam and Chitrakoot in Odisha, on the eve of Friendship Day.

The arrested were identified as P. Ravi Kumar, O. Vasu Deva Katanya, M. Mojesh, A.Y Kishore, M. Sandeep (28) from Marripalem,.

Gates of twin reservoirs to be opened

STAFF REPORTER
PATHANAMTHITTA

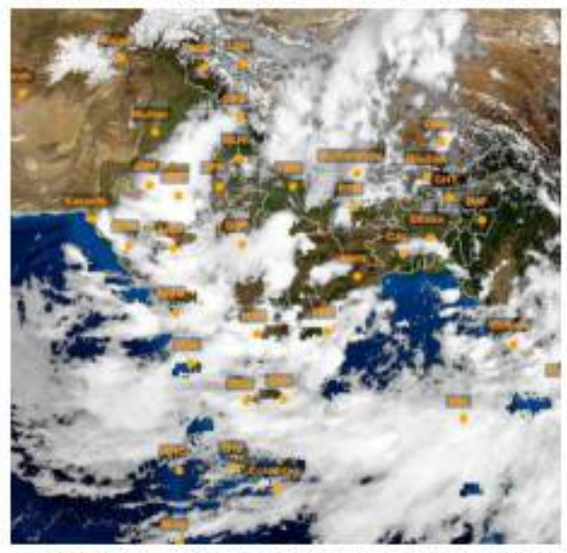
Even as the swollen rivers have mostly retreated to their original course, Pathanamathitta district in Kerala continued to be on the edge as the authorities decided to open gates of the Kakki-Anathodu twin reservoirs on Monday at 11 a.m.

District Collector Divya S. Iyer, chairperson of the District Disaster management Authority , directed officials to raise four shutters of the reservoir to discharge up to 100 cumecs of water into the Pampa.

Authorities have also issued an orange alert for the Pampa reservoir, where the water level touched 983.50 metres on Sunday as against a full reservoir limit of 986.33 metres.

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 16.00 HRS)

Forecast for Monday: Heavy to very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Maharashtra, Goa and Telangana; heavy to very heavy rainfall at isolated places over Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Gujarat, Karnataka and heavy rainfall at isolated places over Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Mizoram, Tripura, Andhra Pradesh and Kerala

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	14.0	33.5	25.8	Kozhikode	21.0	28.4	23.5
Ahmedabad	–	34.4	26.3	Kurnool	0.4	30.8	24.2
Aizawl	–	–	22.0	Lucknow	1.0	36.0	25.5
Allahabad	45.4	36.5	26.8	Madurai	–	34.4	24.6
Bengaluru	3.7	24.2	20.2	Mangaluru	99.6	24.6	22.6
Bhopal	1.0	–	25.0	Mumbai	16.0	31.3	25.0
Bhubaneswar	41.0	29.2	25.2	Mysuru	4.0	26.0	21.0
Chandigarh	1.2	36.5	27.9	New Delhi	–	33.3	26.4
Chennai	–	33.1	–	Patna	32.0	34.7	27.0
Coimbatore	0.1	28.8	22.2	Port Blair	15.0	28.0	25.8
Dehradun	56.0	33.1	22.6	Puducherry	–	33.4	24.9
Gangtok	1.6	24.7	18.2	Pune	0.4	29.4	22.6
Goa	11.0	28.5	24.1	Raipur	22.6	33.6	23.5
Guwahati	10.0	34.5	26.1	Ranchi	0.8	31.0	–
Hubballi	–	26.0	22.0	Shillong	1.0	24.4	18.2
Hyderabad	3.0	30.0	22.0	Shimla	–	26.0	20.1
Imphal	–	29.4	21.2	Srinagar	–	29.0	18.5
Jaipur	–	34.0	27.3	Thiruvananthapuram	–	29.5	23.7
Kochi	4.0	28.4	24.4	Tiruchi	–	33.5	27.0
Kohima	2.0	24.6	16.2	Vijayawada	2.0	31.0	25.2
Kolkata	8.0	32.3	26.7	Visakhapatnam	27.0	33.0	24.4

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing — Yesterday

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	26	30	..–	62	103	
Bengaluru	8	14	59	5	7	
Chennai	11	15	76	14	13	
Delhi	15	73	39	182	132	
Hyderabad	25	20	123	22	31	
Kolkata	9	12	13	27	36	
Lucknow	9	28	82	30	40	
Mumbai	8	3	117	24	–	
Pune	–	–	–	–	–	
Visakhapatnam	15	42	23	36	58	

In observations made at 4.00 p.m., Mandi Gobindgarh, Punjab recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 242 indicating a moderate level of pollution. In contrast, Gangtok, Sikkim recorded a healthy AQI score of 18

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Cooling the temperatures

The U.S., China and Taiwan are left picking up the pieces after Nancy Pelosi's visit

That the four-day military exercises conducted by China, in the waters and airspace surrounding Taiwan, concluded on August 7 without incident comes as a relief to the region. The drills saw the Chinese military not only cross the median of the Taiwan Strait but fire conventional missiles above Taiwan, aggressive acts that could have easily led to unintended escalation. That they did not lead to any incidents is credit to the sober response from Taiwan's military, which said it monitored China's exercises, some of which were held within 12 nautical miles of Taiwan, but chose to neither engage Chinese aircraft and warships, nor shoot down missiles. If the drills were certainly provocative, China's justification is that they were a needed response to draw a red line after what Beijing has seen as needless American provocation that triggered this entire crisis. The August 3 visit of U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi to Taiwan, the first such high-level engagement in 25 years, was in China's view further evidence of Washington "hollowing out" its commitment to a One China Policy.

As the dust settles now, it is difficult to see what all three parties - the U.S., Taiwan and China - will ultimately gain from a visit that appears to have been driven more by Ms. Pelosi's political inclinations than any well-considered long-term strategic objectives. It is thus not hard to see why even U.S. President Joe Biden and the U.S. military had cautioned against a trip that brings no lasting strategic benefits for Washington. For Taiwan's 23 million people and for President Tsai Ing-wen, the rare high-profile foreign visit was no doubt welcome in the face of increasing global isolation on account of China's pressure. That short-term benefit may, however, be offset by the fact that Ms. Pelosi has arguably left Taiwan with a far worse strategic environment. China's military has indicated its actions have now heralded a new normal in military activity across the Taiwan Strait, bringing it ever closer to Taiwan's shores. Beijing and Washington, meanwhile, are left picking up the pieces of an already strained relationship that is now teetering on the edge of an abyss. The focus must now turn to cooling the temperatures. Doing so will be easier said than done with the low levels of trust between the world's two biggest powers. In response to Ms. Pelosi's visit, Beijing last week said it will cut off military channels with Washington by cancelling three key dialogue mechanisms, that too at a time of heightened military tensions. War, it is said, is too important to be left to the generals. The same may be said of relations between nations: they should not be hostage to personal ambitions of politicians.

Focused on inflation

A rate increase was needed to prevent inflation expectations from stymieing growth

The RBI's Monetary Policy Committee on Friday raised the benchmark interest rate for a third straight meeting as policymakers battle to rein in inflation that has persistently 'remained at or above' the prescribed upper tolerance threshold for six months. The 50 basis points raise takes the policy repo rate to 5.4%, and, more significantly, to a level last seen in the pre-pandemic second quarter of fiscal 2019-20, when a growth slowdown and retail inflation of about 3.2% warranted a rate cut. As the MPC's Jayanth Varma had pointed out in June, when the MPC had recommended a 50 basis points increase, the impact of the 90 basis points total increase from May still left the real policy rate at the time lagging behind the RBI's 100 basis points increase in retail inflation projection for the year – from 5.7% to 6.7%. It is only now that the cumulative increase totals 140 basis points, and puts the central bank slightly ahead of the curve. Still, as Governor Shaktikanta Das acknowledged, consumer price inflation, even if off April's eight-year high, remains 'uncomfortably high' with inflationary pressures broad-based. And with the MPC's own forecasts for the second and third quarter pegging retail price gains well above the upper tolerance mark of 6%, at 7.1% and 6.4%, respectively, the rate setting panel had little option but to continue the withdrawal of monetary accommodation to prevent inflation expectations from getting unmoored and stymieing growth by retarding consumption.

From an external sector and exchange rate perspective as well, globalised inflationary surges are prompting policy tightening in advanced economies that is in turn roiling currency markets including appreciably weakening the rupee and adding imported inflation to the mix. Noting that 'successive shocks to the global economy' had led multilateral institutions including the IMF to lower their global growth projections and 'highlight the rising risks of recession', Mr. Das remarked, "disquietingly, globalisation of inflation is coinciding with deglobalisation of trade". Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the resultant impact on trade flows from the conflict zone have upended supply chains for several commodities and added to price pressures for a range of goods. The latest geopolitical tensions triggered in East Asia by U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's visit to Taiwan in the face of Beijing's dire warnings, and China's decision to respond with aggressive military drills around one of the world's busiest shipping lanes, could also impact global trade at a time when uncertainty and risk aversion are already high. Mr. Das's confidence in the 'resilience' of the economy's fundamentals notwithstanding, it is probably apposite for the MPC to hereafter heed Mr. Varma's exhortation by 'providing projections of the future path of the policy rate'. This would help anchor price gain expectations firmly and surely enhance the RBI's inflation-fighting credentials.

India, democracy and the promised republic

At 75, the country must be judged by the extent to which it has advanced human development

PULAPRE BALAKRISHNAN

Within a few days, India will complete 75 years as an independent political entity. The event is not without historical significance, for among the countries that emerged from Britain's vast South Asian empire in 1947, India alone has maintained some stability. Stability, however, would be a low standard by which to judge India's journey since 1947. So, how should it be judged, then? A recent commentator has argued that India may not have succeeded in economic terms but has remained a democracy, which is something to be proud of. But, surely, democracy is not only about the protocols of governance but as much about the outcomes that it produces. Thus, while the idea of democracy being 'government by discussion' establishes the norm that decision-making under a democracy ought to be participatory, this representation loses sight of democracy's central aim.

Empowering the individual

The significance of democracy is that it aims to empower the individual to lead the kind of life that he or she values. With this understood, on its 75th anniversary India must be judged by the extent to which it has advanced human development. When the economy is viewed as an ecosystem for enabling human development, the extent to which it has succeeded must be part of the assessment of democracy itself.

This was implicit in Jawaharlal Nehru's message to the nation on August 15, 1947. Nehru had first queried, rhetorically, "Whither do we go and what shall be our endeavour?", and answered this as follows: "To bring freedom and opportunity to the common man, to the peasants and workers of India. To fight and end poverty and ignorance and disease. To build up a prosperous, democratic and progressive nation, and to create social, economic and political institutions that will ensure justice and fullness of life to every man and woman." This understanding of the goal of Indian independence by the most consequential Indian of the moment was shared by millions of his compatriots who had participated in the movement for national independence.

Distant goal of opportunity

Nehru himself was not sanguine about the challenges that lay ahead, though. In his speech to the Constituent Assembly the previous day he had asked if India's political representatives would deliver what was at stake, which was an India where equal opportunity prevailed. We can now see that this goal is far from having been attained.

From an economic point of view, though the demarcation is not always clear cut, there is a layering of the population according to caste and gender. Gender-based inequality is rampant in India; within every social group, women are worse off than their men. They are less nourished, less educated and have a representation in the institutions of governance far lower than their share of the population. While they participate equally in the elections, they are denied a place at the high table of governance, as it were. What is not evident in the official statistics, though, is the extent of women's autonomy with respect to their lives. This is reflected in the very low female labour force participation in India compared to the rest of the world. It reinforces their secondary position in society by adding economic deprivation to the social restriction that discourages them from working outside the home.

V. GANAPATHY/THE HINDU PHOTO ARCHIVES

Regional differentiation

On development indicators pertaining to health and education, not to mention poverty, China does far better than India. While this should hardly lead us to rush to celebrate human development in China – for personal freedoms are severely restricted in that country – it should certainly alert us to the failure of democracy in India to advance it.

However, the cliché that "whatever you may say about India, the opposite is also true" carries over in this instance too. There are States in India which compare quite well with China on human development indicators. So, there is a regional differentiation when it comes to development here. The commonly remarked upon pattern is that the south and the west do better than much of the rest of the country, the exception being the northeastern States, some of which have made remarkable strides in this sphere. And, the difference is considerable. For instance, data released by NITI Aayog in 2021 show multi-dimensional poverty in Bihar to be over 50% while it is only a little more than 1% in Kerala. Why, it may be asked, is it that in a country with mostly uniform laws across it, social and economic development is so uneven?

As with many institutions, democracy too is embedded in society, leaving some of its functioning to be determined by the social structure. The south and the west of India show greater development because they have witnessed greater social transformation. This has taken the form of a weakening of the traditional hierarchy, allowing for a greater say in governance of once-excluded groups, which leads to the adoption of a public policy that furthers the well-being of the latter.

For instance, the superior human development indicators of Kerala and Tamil Nadu have followed this social transformation. However, despite the progress made, the imprint of patriarchy and caste, respectively, remain writ large over the social map of even these States, pointing to the distance to be travelled to the attainment of equality of opportunity.

Nehru seems to have anticipated that merely adopting democracy as a form of governance would not assure a fulfilling life for all Indians. He could see that it was necessary to create the "social, economic and political" institutions that would enable this. It is important to realise that such institutions are not exclusively built or even promoted by the state. They can also arise from civil society, i.e., they may be created by the people themselves. However, in an India where universal public education was not seriously attempted, the potential for the creation of such institutions was limited.

Subversion of democracy

Not even Nehru was prescient enough to see the subversion of democracy by the Indian state that was to come after his time. First, there was the Emergency, and today, while the Constitution may not have been abrogated, civil liberties have a precarious existence. The freedom of expression of individuals is curtailed, the press has been intimidated and the religious minorities, particularly Muslims, feel insecure. There is a perceived weaponisation of the law by the state.

Towards the end of his life, Nehru publicly rued the fact that India had not achieved sufficient progress in agriculture, wryly observing that we seem to have imagined that crops would "somehow grow on their own". After 75 years, we may have come to recognise a similar truth about our democracy. We seemed to have imagined that simply leaving things to our political representatives would somehow deliver us a happy country. Now we have learned that, rather like a plant, democracy too needs nurturing and realised what is meant by the maxim "the price of freedom is eternal vigilance". It is not as if all Indians have ignored their role, as seen in the heroic efforts of Right to Information activists who have at times paid with their life for challenging both vested interests and the Indian state. On balance, though, India's middle classes, who have benefited greatly from the economic policies of the past 75 years, have contributed relatively little to safeguard democracy in their country.

Some fear that the era of civil liberties is over in India, but this would be premature. We are still an electoral democracy, and the history of elections holds a clue to possibilities in the present. For a poor country, Indians displayed an unusually strong commitment to civil liberties in 1977. However, in 1989 and 2014, they conveyed that they also want their representatives to be free of even the slightest taint of corruption. Indeed, the political parties that led the restoration of liberty in 1977 would have been aided by Jayaprakash Narayan's incorruptibility.

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Tapping technology to check minor mineral plunder

India has grossly underestimated the issue of illegal mining, which damages the environment and causes revenue loss

AMAR PATNAIK

With the increase in the pace of development, the demand for minor minerals such as sand and gravel has crossed 60 million metric tons in India. This also makes it the second largest extractive industry on the planet, after water. However, while laws and monitoring have been made stringent for the mining of major minerals consequent to the unearthing of several related scams across the country, the fact is that rampant and illegal mining of minor minerals continues unabated. In many instances, one comes across gravel being removed from agricultural lands or fallow lands of the government near major highways or construction projects, as the contractor finds it easier and cheaper to do so even though the estimates for such work include the distance (called 'lead') to transport such gravel from authorised quarries.

Issue of regulation

Unlike major minerals, the regulatory and administrative powers to frame rules, prescribe rates of royalty, mineral concessions, enforcement, etc. are entrusted exclusively to the State governments.

The Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notifications of 1994 and 2006 made environmental clearance compulsory for mining in areas more than or equal to five hectares. However, the Supreme Court of India after taking cognisance of a report by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change on Environmental Aspects of Quarrying of Minor Minerals (2010) directed all State governments to make the requisite changes in the regulatory framework of minor minerals, requiring environmental clearance for mining in areas less than five hectares. Consequently, the EIA was amended in 2016 which made environmental clearance mandatory for mining in areas less than five hectares, including minor minerals. The amendment also provided for the setting up of a District Environment Impact Assessment Authority (EIAA) and a District Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC).

However, a State-wise review of EACs and EIAAs in key industrial States such as Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, shows that these authorities review over 50 project proposals in a day and the rejection rate at the State level has been a mere 1%. This raises a pertinent question on whether introducing clearances alone can help eliminate irregularities in the illegal mining of minor minerals? The situation now indicates that the problem is even more complex and widespread and that a robust technology-driven enforcement approach is required.

The problem of illegal mining of minor minerals is often under-estimated, thus accentuating undesired environmental consequences. There have been numerous cases of the illegal mining of dolomite, marble and sand across States. For example, in Andhra Pradesh's Konanki limestone quarries alone, 28.92 lakh metric tonnes of limestone have been illegally quarried. However, the relentless pace of sand mining poses grave concerns.

RITU RAJ KONWAR

Observations by agencies

The United Nations Environment Programme, in 2019, ranked India and China as the top two countries where illegal sand mining has led to sweeping environmental degradation. Despite this, there is no comprehensive assessment available to evaluate the scale of sand mining in India. Nevertheless, regional studies such as those by the Centre for Science and Environment of the Yamuna riverbed in Uttar Pradesh have observed that increasing demand for soil has severely affected soil formation and the soil holding ability of the land, leading to a loss in marine life, an increase in flood frequency, droughts, and also degradation of water quality. Such effects can also be seen in the beds of the Godavari, the Narmada and the Mahanadi basins. As has been pointed out in a study of the Narmada basin, sand mining has reduced the population of Mahseer fish from 76% between 1963 and 2015.

It is not just damage to the environment. Illegal mining causes copious losses to the state exchequer. As per an estimate, U.P. is losing revenue from 70% of mining activities as only 30% area is legally mined. Similarly, the absence of royalty has caused a loss of ₹700 crore in Bihar while non-payment of various cesses due to unregulated mining has resulted in a loss of ₹100 crore to Karnataka and ₹600 crore to Madhya Pradesh in 2016-17.

Judicial orders, state response

Judicial orders are often neglected by State governments. For instance, as in the report of the Oversight Committee by the National Green Tribunal (NGT), Uttar Pradesh (where illegal sand mining has created a severe hazard) has either failed or only partially complied with orders issued regarding compensation for illegal sand mining. Such lax compliance can be seen in States such as West Bengal, Bihar, and Madhya Pradesh too.

A State-wide review of the reasons behind non-compliance suggests a malfunction of governance due to weak institutions, a scarcity of state resources to ensure enforcement, poorly drafted regulatory provisions, inadequate monitoring and evaluation mechanisms, and excessive litigation that dampens state administrative capacity.

Protecting minor minerals requires investment in production and consumption measurement and also monitoring and planning tools. To this end, technology has to be used to provide a sustainable solution.

The power of technology

Satellite imagery can be used to monitor the volume of extraction and also check the mining process. Even for past infractions, the NGT and administrative authorities can obtain satellite pictures for the past 10 to 15 years and uncontrovertibly show how small hillocks of earth, gravel or small stone dunes have disappeared in an area. Recently, the NGT directed some States to use satellite imagery to monitor the volume of sand extraction and transportation from the riverbeds. Well-planned execution of these directions increased revenue from minor minerals mining in all these States.

Additionally, drones, the internet of things (IoT) and blockchain technology can be leveraged to monitor mechanisms by using Global Positioning System, radar and Radio Frequency (RF) Locator. State governments such as Gujarat and judicial directions such as the High Court of Madras have employed some of these technologies to check illegal sand mining.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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The new V-P

Any neutral observer of current political affairs in the country would be at best lukewarm about the election of Jagdeep Dhankhar as India's 14th Vice-President. As a Governor, he often exceeded his brief, leading to conflicts with the duly-elected West Bengal government. Given the relentless showdown between the ruling party and the Opposition, the Rajya Sabha, under his chairmanship, is unlikely to be a genuine forum for the voice of the Opposition.

S. SANJEEVI RAO,
Puducherry

Taiwan and lessons

Though the Indian establishment showed extreme laxity and seemingly adopted a questionable position in the aftermath of recent Chinese aggressions in the border areas, Taiwan's defiance (backed by America) would hardly provide any constructive strategic thinking to deal with an assertive and belligerent Chinese state as well as to fix the border issues between the two countries. In connection with India's conflictual and painful relationships with China, New Delhi has travelled a completely different trajectory in terms of conflict resolutions and peace-building efforts. Therefore, such thoughtful and long-term attempts cannot be suddenly abandoned due to the newfound enthusiasm or adventurous actions of others.

CHANDRAN KOMATH,
Kottayam, Kerala

■ The unfortunate truth is that India could not learn substantively from the birth, expansion and unnatural death of the Panchsheel principles which once served as the foundation for India-China relations. While India appeared sincere, China never showed a consistent attitude. The 1962 war was practically the end of all five principles. Now, India has become slightly assertive, but far below essential in comparison with Taiwan. India needs to revalue its economic and military powers and also international standing.

P.R.V. RAJA,
Pandalam, Kerala

■ Nancy Pelosi is my star of the week. She took a stand and made her point. And what did the Dragon do? Like all bullies, it threatened dire consequences, but on the day that mattered, was only 'sound'. There is a message for India. Do what is right, and do what is in your national interest.

JAYANTHI ANANDAMBAL,
Mumbai

Vaccine manufacturing

The COVID-19 pandemic has taught us all a very important lesson – that prevention is better than cure and the emphasis on prevention in public health policies is well proven. However, we have not taken this aspect seriously, as seen in the emerging public health emergency occurrence of monkeypox (and definitely many more disease outbreaks on the anvil): i.e., looking at private players for vaccine development. It does not augur well for a socialistic country such as ours where public sector units played a pivotal role in this aspect in the days of the past.

DR. V. PURUSHOTHAMAN,
Chennai

At Birmingham

The medal wins by steeplechaser Avinash Sable and long jumper Murali Sreeshankar at the 2022 Commonwealth Games are a boost for Indian athletics. There is a bright future.

K. SIVARAMAN,
New Delhi

Reaching out to Pasmanda Muslims

The BJP is seeking to encourage and exploit the schism within the Indian Muslim community

ZIYA US SALAM

SANDEEP SAXENA

At the Bharatiya Janata Party's national executive meeting in Hyderabad recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi advised the party workers to reach out to the marginalised and weaker sections of the minorities. This was also the party's first official attempt to win over the Pasmanda Muslim community. This was predictably welcomed by sundry Pasmanda Muslim leaders in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, but sent more than just ripples across the Muslim community. Many read in it the government's attempt to break the unity of India's largest minority. Some scoffed at the thought of caste-based divisions in the community, pointing out that there is no caste system in Islam and that attempts to ameliorate the lot of the deprived are mere tactics to augment the party's vote bank.

What the scriptures say

On paper, their claims are borne by the tenets of Islam. It was the casteless, classless society that Islam offered that attracted many lower caste Hindus to Islam. Indeed, Islam recognises no distinctions based on birth, caste or class; the accent all along is on universal egalitarianism. The Prophet in his last sermon told his audience, "An Arab has no superiority over a non-Arab or a White over Black, except by deeds of piety". To this day, Muslims stand together in a prayer, shoulder to shoulder, in mosques across the world. Who stands to one's left or right or in front is immaterial. The imam too can be from any segment of society. The differences of race or creed never overpowered unity. As the famous poet Muhammad Iqbal, who penned *Saare Jahan Se Achcha*, wrote on the subject, "*Ek hi saff main khade ho gaye Mahmood-o-Ayaz/ Na koi banda raha, na koi bandanawaz* (Sultan and slave stood side by side/ Then there was no servant nor master, nothing did them divide)". There is a Hadith which says all Muslims are like a body: if any part hurts, the whole body should feel the pain. The Quran's Surah Al-Hujurat, verse 10, calls believers as brothers and encourages them to settle quarrels, if any.

A unique category

Beautiful and inspirational as it is, this often remains confined to the scriptures. The modern Indian Muslim society is not a replica of the one envisioned by the Prophet. While it seeks to uphold all the tenets of faith in matters of prayer-fast-pilgrimage, socio-historical factors make Indian Islam a unique category where an unwitting blend of Hindu tradition and Islamic value coexists in harmony. Of course, the overwhelming numerical superiority of the majority community has had a crucial role to play in this. So has the fact that Indian Muslims include millions who changed their religion but brought along their socio-cultural practices with them to the new faith. For instance, Indian Muslims have concepts such as '*teeja*' and '*chaleesva*' (roughly third and 40th day of mourning the dead), much like the '*tehrvee*' (13th day) concept among Hindus. Similarly, if among Hindus, girls often had the suffix of 'Kumari' added to their name before marriage and 'Devi' afterwards, Muslims girls had suffixes such as 'Jahan' or 'Parveen' but seldom used their father's name or surname.

Muslims are divided into the Shia and Sunni sects. The Sunnis have further sub sects, such as Hanafi (a majority of Indian Muslims subscribe to this school), Hanbali, Maliki and Shafi. Most differences pertain to their interpretation of Shariah.

While almost all the differences among them are ideological, and in some ways, universal, what is uniquely Indian is the presence of caste among Indian Muslims. As they say, in India you can change your religion but not your caste. Thus we have the anomaly of terms like Dalit Sikhs and Dalit Christians, though both faiths do not subscribe to the caste system. Among Muslims, we have Syeds, often called the Brahmins of Islam. They trace their descent to the family of the Prophet. Along with Shaikhs, Mughals, Pathans and others, they bring up the Ashraf category of 'noble' Muslims who are said to hail from the Arab peninsula or Central Asia. Then we have Ajlafs or commoners, usually converts. Finally, we have Arzals whom some sociologists equate with Dalits.

Social stratification

Keeping the Hindu caste system as the reference model, the caste system among Muslims is far from exploitative. The 'purity and pollution' model is largely absent. For instance, there are no restrictions on pursuing education at an institute of one's choice or even purchasing a house in a certain locality. A Pasmanda Muslim or a Muslim OBC – say, a Saifi (carpenter) or an Ansari (weaver) or Salmani (Hajjam or barber) – is considered as capable of leading prayers in a mosque as, say, a Syed or Shaikh and Khan. What men of these categories might struggle to do is to marry Syed or Shaikh women. Again, the rules are different if a Syed or Shaikh man marries a Pasmanda woman. The same norms of male hegemony apply as in Hinduism, where too it is easier for an upper caste man to marry a lower caste woman than for a Dalit man to marry, say, a Brahmin woman. In fact, the clearest example of acculturative influence of Hinduism among Indian Muslims can be seen in the matrimonial advertisements in newspapers where it is common to find expressions like, 'A Syed family seeks match for their boy' or 'A Sheikh family seek a suitable match for a girl'. The advertisements, without putting in so many words, are as much about a hunt for like-stationed and like-birthed families as exclusion of those hailing from other social strata. It is a mind-boggling blend of Islamic identity and Hindu social practice.

Of course, this social stratification is widely prevalent though considerably more rampant in the West Bengal-Bihar-Jharkhand-eastern Uttar Pradesh belt. Here, if a man gives only his initial name while meeting a person for the first time, it is not unusual to be asked, '*Is ke age kya lagate hain* (What do you use after the initial name)?' It is a far from a subtle take on the caste origins of the person. In Bihar, there are reportedly caste-specific cemeteries. In places like Delhi and in the towns of Uttar Pradesh, the 'reservation' in cemeteries is subtle. People from certain parts of the country or certain vocations are buried, while others are often denied this. Under the circumstances, almost 30 years ago, Pasmanda Muslims started uniting under banners such as the All India Pasmanda Muslim Mahaz, the All India Muslim OBC Organisation, and the All-India Backward Muslim Morcha, said to be the umbrella body of 32 backward castes. According to the Sachar Committee Report, 40% of Indian Muslims are 'pasmanda'. Around the same time, we heard the slogan, '*Dalit pichhda ek saman, Hindu ho ya Musalman* (All Dalits-Backwards are alike, whether Hindu or Muslim)'.

It is this schism that the BJP seeks to encourage and exploit. Paradoxically, some of the policies of the government since 2014 and the right-wing party's foot soldiers have united the Indian Muslims like seldom before. On the one hand, we saw how Muslim women led the anti-Citizenship (Amendment) Act protests across the country with no questions being asked of their caste origin. On the other, we saw repeated attacks on Muslim dairy farmers and animal transporters, sending the community into a huddle with not just Syeds and Saifis uniting, but even the Shias and Sunnis burying the hatchet and telling each other, 'The mob does not ask for your sect or caste when it attacks. Being a Muslim is enough'.

The larger question today is, 'Is being Muslim enough for all faithful?' Or, as the BJP insists, 'Is it all about being a Pasmanda Muslim today?'

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Judging the fudging of data

The available technologies for identifying data fudging are still inadequate to address all possible situations

ATANU BISWAS

An editorial in *Nature Genetics* in January, 'A very Mendelian year', reminded us of the 200th birth anniversary of Gregor Mendel, the 'father of modern genetics', on July 20, 2022. The legacy of Mendel is intriguing. Mendel performed controlled crossing experiments on around 29,000 plants with the garden pea between 1856 and 1863. He registered many observable characteristics, such as the shape and colour of the seeds, the colour of the flower, and formulated two principles of heredity. His seminal paper, 'Experiments on Plant Hybridization', was published in the Proceedings of the Brunn Society for Natural Science in 1866. He, however, gained posthumous recognition when, in 1900, the British biologist William Bateson unearthed Mendel's paper.

The issue of falsification

Importantly, in 1936, eminent British statistician and geneticist, Sir Ronald Fisher, published a paper titled 'Has Mendel's Work Been Rediscovered?' By reconstructing Mendel's experiments, Fisher found the ratio of dominant to recessive phenotypes to be implausibly close to the expected ratio of 3:1. He claimed that Mendel's data agree better with his theory than expected under natural fluctuations. "The data of most, if not all, of the experiments have been falsified so as to agree closely with Mendel's expectations," he concluded. Fisher's criticism drew wide attention beginning in 1964, about the time of the centenary of Mendel's paper. Numerous articles have been published on the Mendel-Fisher controversy subsequently. The 2008 book, *Ending the Mendel-Fisher Controversy*, by Allan Franklin and others recognised that "the issue of the 'too good to be true' aspect of Mendel's data found by Fisher still stands." Fisher, of course, attributed the falsification to an unknown assistant of Mendel. Modern researchers also tend to give the benefit of the doubt to Mendel.

In fact, the 1982 book, *Betrayers of the Truth: Fraud and Deceit in the Halls of Science*, by William Broad and Nicholas Wade is a compendium of case histories of malpractice in scientific research. While data fudging in the scientific and social arena is understandably more likely in today's data-driven and data-obsessed world, data and the resulting conclusions, in many cases, lose their credibility. Data is expanding; so is fudged data.

In a paper published in 2016 in the journal *Statistical Journal of the IAOS*, two researchers illustrated that about one in five surveys may contain fraudulent data. They presented a statistical test for detecting fabricated data in survey answers and applied it to more than 1,000 public data sets from international surveys to get this worrying picture.

Also, Benford's law says that in many real-life numerical data sets, the proportion of times of different leading digits is fixed. A data set not conforming to Benford's law is an indicator that something is wrong. The U.S. Internal Revenue Service uses it to sniff out tax cheats, or at least to narrow the field to better channel resources.

Judging the fudging is not easy though. The available technologies for identifying data fudging are still inadequate to address all possible situations. Several procedures for testing the randomness of data exist. But they may only shed doubts over the data, at best. It's difficult to conclude fudging in most cases. Data may, of course, be non-random due to extreme inclusion criteria or inadequate data cleaning. And remember that a real data set is just a single 'simulation by nature', and it can take any pattern, whatever small likelihood that might have.

Still, an efficient statistical expert will be able to identify the inconsistencies within the data as nature induces some kind of in-built randomness that fabricated data would miss. However, if raw data is not reported and only some brief summary results are given, it's very difficult to identify data fudging. Still, if the same data is used to calculate different types of summary measures and some of the measures are fudged, quite often it's possible to find inconsistencies. There is nothing called 'perfect fudging of data'.

Back to the Mendel-Fisher controversy. In her 1984 review of the book *Betrayers of the Truth*, Patricia Woolf noted that Ptolemy, Hipparchus, Galileo, Newton, Bernoulli, Dalton, Darwin, and Mendel are all alleged to have violated standards of good research practice. "[T]here is scant acknowledgement that scientific standards have changed over the two-thousand-year period from 200 B.C. to the present," Woolf wrote. The importance of the natural fluctuation of data was possibly not so clear during Mendel's era as it is today, for example. Thus, it's possibly unfair to put these stalwarts under a scanner built by present-day ethical standards.

Judging the fudging is a continual process, empowered with new technologies, scientific interpretations, and ethical standards. The future generations would keep judging you even if your conclusion is perfect.

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STATE OF PLAY

Chinks in the Congress armour

After gaining some buoyancy, the Congress boat is again rocky now in Telangana

R. RAVIKANTH REDDY

The lack of unity in the party, the alleged autocratic functioning of the State party president, and dissidence are all shaking the Telangana Congress boat, which had been sailing smoothly until a a month ago despite a few hiccups.

After two successive defeats in the Assembly elections of 2014 and 2018, the party has been gearing up for the next battle: the general election of 2024. The Congress has been accusing the K. Chandrasekhar Rao family of indulging in corruption in the prestigious Kaleshwaram project ever since Mr. Revanth Reddy took over. The huge debt of the State, which is to the tune of nearly ₹3 lakh crore, has also been a major weapon of the party against the TRS. Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee president A. Revanth Reddy has been countering the government's claims with eloquence. All these seemed to be good signs for the party.

However, the resignation of Munugode MLA Komatireddy Raj Gopal Reddy began to rock the boat. Following his resignation and attack of Mr. Revanth Reddy, leaders such as Dasoju Shravan also quit the party accusing Mr. Revanth Reddy of not respecting the backward classes or the idea of social justice and joined the BJP. Mr. Raj Gopal Reddy's resignation will lead to a bypoll within in a few months if the Assembly Speaker accepts his resignation when it is tendered.

Mr. Raj Gopal Reddy's loss is not just that of a mere individual. His elder brother and sitting MP from Bhongir, Komatireddy Venkata Reddy, who, along with Mr. Raj Gopal Reddy, met BJP leader Amit Shah a few days ago, can influence voters in five or six constituencies. If Mr. Venkata Reddy also joins the BJP, which seems unlikely now despite his meeting with Mr. Shah, or decides to support his brother, the perception battle will weigh in favour of the BJP, at least in the bypoll. Mr. Venkata Reddy too hit out at Mr. Revanth Reddy for reportedly dragging him into the resignation issue of his brother. The brothers wield considerable influence in Nalgonda district, which has been a Congress bastion for several decades.

Days after Mr. Raj Gopal Reddy announced his resignation from the party and the Assembly, Congress leaders put up a show of strength by holding a public meeting to instill confidence among the cadres. Pleased by the turnout, the party now hopes to undo the damage by roping in two party stalwarts from Nalgonda district – N. Uttam Kumar Reddy and K. Jana Reddy. Meanwhile, the TRS is waiting to grab the seat, especially since it lost two out of the four bypolls to the rising BJP.

The episode exposes chinks in the Congress's armour. The lack of unity in the party and the low confidence of senior leaders in Mr. Revanth Reddy is likely to prove costly. A relatively a new entrant into the Congress, Mr. Revanth Reddy has not been able to gain the confidence of seniors like Bhatti Vikramarka, D. Sreedhar Babu, T. Jayaprakash Reddy and the three influential Reddys from Nalgonda.

The winner of this bypoll will definitely emerge more confident. If the Congress wins, it will heave a sigh of relief. There will be pressure on Mr. Revanth Reddy to secure the seat for the party. If the TRS wins, it will gain some confidence as both the Congress and BJP are locked in a serious battle to emerge as the main challenger to the regional party. The TRS is keen to demolish the perception that the BJP is strong in Telangana. And if the BJP wins, it will be chuffed as it has been making strides in the State despite having no historical roots. Mr. Raj Gopal Reddy's political future too is at stake.

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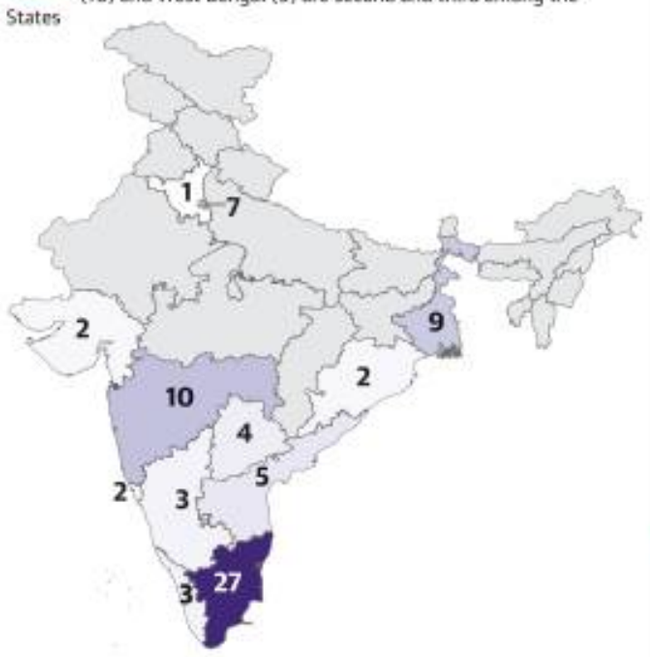
DATA POINT

Marching on

With 16-year-old V. Pranav (in pic) achieving his final GM norm, India now has its 75th Grandmaster, 75 years after Independence. The number of GMs in the country has increased steadily since the early 2000s, with many youngsters joining the ranks. More than a third of India's GMs are from Tamil Nadu.
By **Srinivasan Ramani**

1 'Thambi' on top | With 27 GMs, Tamil Nadu has produced more than one-third of of India's tally. Maharashtra (10) and West Bengal (9) are second and third among the States



2 Masters on the rise
Since the early 2000s, the number of new GMs in India has increased steadily and in the last decade, sharply. The rate of addition slowed down somewhat during the pandemic years

Cumulative number of Indian GMs

3 Younger, faster, stronger
The average age of new GMs has tended to decrease over time

Average age of new Indian GMs year-wise

4 High among peers
Not only is India among the top five countries with the most GMs, but its best players are also rated relatively high compared to the others (third behind Russia and the U.S.). *These are the registered GMs according to Fide. Those with full GM norms will be registered in the coming days

Federation	Number of GMs	Average rating of top 10 GMs
Russia	211	2,734.5
U.S.	103	2,731
Germany	94	2,635.3
Ukraine	89	2,671.6
India	73*	2,682.1
Spain	57	2,633.8
France	53	2,662.7
Serbia	52	2,559.7
Hungary	52	2,654.2
Poland	50	2,626.6

Source: FIDE, All India Chess Federation

The Hindu.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO AUGUST 8, 1972

Pak. to release all civilian internees

New Delhi, Aug 7: The Pakistan Government announced to-day that all Indian civilians detained in that country both before and after the December War would be released soon in implementation of the Simla Agreement. But the Pakistan Radio which broadcast the announcement did not disclose the number or catergories of Indian nationals who would be allowed to return to India following this decision. According to information available in Delhi, about 600 Indian civilians are in detention in Pakistan at present, including those imprisoned earlier for routine offences like illegal entry or violation of visa rules. About 300 of them are civilian internees who were taken into custody from the Indian border villages occupied by the Pakistan forces during the recent conflict, especially the Hussainiwala enclave near Ferozepore. The Pakistan Government has formally communicated to the Government of India its decision to free these interned Indian civilians soon. The International Red Cross has been asked to arrange for their release at the Wagah border post between Amritsar and Lahore on a mutually convenient date.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO AUGUST 8, 1922

Free elementary education

Under the auspices of the Womens' Indian Association a public meeting of the women of Cocanada was held on Thursday, the 2nd instant in the Cocanada Town Hall at which the following resolutions were passed unanimously and enthusiastically by a large gathering which included the most progressive and public-spirited ladies of the town: "That this meeting of the women of Cocanada believes that it is necessary, just and wise for every boy and girl in the Municipality to be given Elementary Education, and it therefore earnestly requests the Municipal Councillors to include girls in their scheme of Compulsory Free Elementary Education." This resolution was introduced in the meeting by Srimati Koka Krishnavenamma (Mrs Janardanarao Naidu, member of the Godavary District Educational Committee), who presided, seconded by Srimati Kannakamma Ammal and supported in convincing arguments by Srimati Lakshmi Narassama (Editor, 'Savitri'), Srimati Venkatarathamma (Editor, 'Anasuya'), Srimati Sundarammal, Miss Bhaskerville and Mrs Cousins.

FROM PAGE ONE

PM lauds States for cooperative federalism

Greetings: PM Narendra Modi with CMs of Punjab and Meghalaya, Bhagwant Mann and Conrad Sangma. • PTI

In his closing remarks, the Prime Minister said each State should focus on promoting trade, tourism and technology via every Indian Mission around the world. The States must focus on reducing imports, increasing exports and identifying opportunities thereof. Even though the Goods and Services Tax (GST) collection had improved, there was much more potential. "Increasing GST collection requires collective action by the Centre and States. It is crucial for strengthening our economic position and becoming a $5 trillion economy," he said.

Earlier, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said, "For the first time in the history of G20, India will host the G20 meetings over the year, not only in Delhi, but in every State and Union Territory". While highlighting the initiatives to boost learning outcomes, capacity-building of teachers, and skilling, Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan thanked and requested further support of the States in the successful implementation of the National Education Policy.

Edible oil import

At a press conference, NITI Aayog Member Ramesh Chand later said the Prime Minister also emphasised the need for self sufficiency in the area of edible oil. India was currently importing edible oil worth about ₹1 lakh crore, thus meeting nearly half the total demand from imports.

During the meeting, a key demand from the States was to make the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for pulses and oil seeds more effective. Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot sought better irrigation facilities in 13 districts for rapid growth in mustard cultivation.

In response to a media query, the NITI Aayog Member said over the past five-six years, the production of pulses had gone up substantially, except for the deficit in masoor and arhar dal, leading to import dependency of just about 7%. He said the northeastern States were expanding the oil palm cultivation areas.

At the meeting, Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel reiterated the demand for a five-year extension of GST compensation. He also asked for a revision of the rates of royalty for coal and other major minerals; and suggested that the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) be implemented in the rural areas located close to cities and cities with a population of less than 20,000.

Husbands of elected women take oath in M.P. panchayats

As the violation has embarrassed government, official says it will issue advisory to prevent any such instances in future

SHUBHOMOY SIKDAR
RAIPUR

Following reports of men, especially husbands, taking oath instead of the elected women representatives from their families in newly formed Madhya Pradesh panchayats, the State is coming out with an advisory to prevent a repeat of such instances.

Such violations have come to the fore in Dhar, Damoh, Sagar, Panna and Rewa where the women concerned were among the spectators or at home while their husbands or other relatives took the oath on their behalf. Videos of husbands, fathers or brothers-in-law taking oath had surfaced.

"This is completely unacceptable and against the rules. The officials and the staff at the ground level are responsible for ensuring that the right candidates take oath. We have already taken action or are in the process of doing so. We are also issuing an advisory that will be sent to all the gram panchayats to block any such attempts by family members in the future," says Umakant Umrao, Principal Secretary, Panchayat and Rural Development, Madhya Pradesh.

Husbands of women who were elected to a panchayat in Damoh taking oath as members. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Sagar incident

Earlier, at Jaisinagar village in Sagar, only three of the 10 women who were elected to the panchayat were present at the oath-taking ceremony on August 5.

The hue and cry that followed led to the suspension of the Village Panchayat Secretary Asharam Sahu who could be seen administering the oath to the male relatives in one of the videos.

He later reasoned that the women's reluctance to take oath led to the violation.

Similar scenes were witnessed at Sundrel panchayat in Dhar where even the oath was administered allegedly by BJP leader Radheshyam Kasrawadiya.

As of 2020, 20 States in the country provide 50% reservation for women in Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs).

Madhya Pradesh has been one of the earliest adopters of this provision as it has been reserving half the Sarpanch posts for women since the 1990s. In the just-concluded elections, more women were in the fray than men for Sarpanch posts.

However, the latest videos and the administrative response has prompted many to question if such violations make the aim of empowering women at the grassroots futile.

Reservation for women

"Article 243 of the Constitution talks about reservation for women and this has been endorsed by Madhya Pradesh in its M.P. Panchayat Raj and Gram Swaraj Act, 1993. A *Pradhan Pati* culture, however, thrives in the hinterland which defeats the purpose of the exercise that is adequate representation for women and their empowerment," says Quazi Fakhruddin, a lawyer who practises in the Jabalpur High court.

Last week, Mr. Fakhruddin was among the two lawyers who successfully argued and got overturned a controversial decision that declared a winning candidate as the one who lost despite him securing more votes. In that case, too, alleged administrative connivance had come to the fore.

During the campaigning for these panchayat elections too, the men had been projected as the future sarpanches (or sarpanch *patis*, as the term goes) with their faces featuring on the publicity material, many a time without the spouse who was actually contesting.

On such allegations, Mr. Umrao called them exceptions and said that once local bodies are formed, there is a seven-month training and orientation programme. "Gender sensitisation is a major part of this programme and this time, we will provide additional emphasis," he said.

India begins cooperation with Combined Maritime Forces

Modalities of nature of cooperation is being worked out, say officials

DINAKAR PERI
NEW DELHI

Last month, India formally commenced cooperation with the Bahrain-based multilateral partnership, Combined Maritime Forces (CMF). However, the modalities of the exact nature of cooperation are being worked out, according to official sources.

At the India-U.S. 2+2 in April, India had announced that it would join the CMF as an Associate Partner, which Defence Minister Rajnath Singh had then said would strengthen cooperation in regional security in the western Indian Ocean.

Joining the CMF is the latest in a series of multilateral engagements by the Indian Navy as part of India's widening military diplomacy.

During July-end, the Deputy Chief of the Naval Staff (DCNS), Vice-Admiral Sanjay Mahindru, visited the headquarters of the CMF, which the Navy said marks "the initiation of the Indian Navy's 'Associate Support' to CMF in keeping with India's commitment to the collective responsibility of maritime security in the Indian Ocean."

In tandem: Vice-Admiral Sanjay Mahindru at the Combined Maritime Forces headquarters in Bahrain in July. • @INDIANNAVY

"Commitments to resources and personnel are limited for Associate membership and it will be cooperative engagement based on the needs and requirements. The modalities for this are being worked out," an official source said.

The Indian Navy could be contributing a warship when required, however, there is no deployment as of now, the source added.

The Indian Navy has a Liaison Officer posted at the U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) in Bahrain who will also function as the point person for cooperation with the CMF, officials stated.

The Combined Maritime Forces is a multinational naval partnership to promote security, stability and prosperity across approximately 3.2 million square miles of international waters, which encompass some of the world's most important shipping lanes.

34 members grouping

The 34-nation grouping is commanded by a U.S. Navy Vice Admiral, who also serves as Commander U.S. Naval Forces CENTCOM and U.S. Fifth Fleet. All three commands are co-located at U.S. Naval Support Activity Bahrain. In the immediate neighbourhood, Pakistan is a full member of Combined Maritime Forces .

It comprises three task forces: CTF 150 (maritime security and counter-terrorism), CTF 151 (counter piracy) and CTF 152 (Arabian Gulf security and cooperation).

As per CMF's website, it is a flexible organisation and members are not bound by either a political or military mandate. "Contributions can vary from the provision of a liaison officer at CMF HQ in Bahrain to the supply of warships or support vessels in task forces, and maritime reconnaissance aircraft based on land," it stated.

We can also call on warships not explicitly assigned to CMF to give associated support, which is assistance they can offer if they have the time and capacity to do so whilst undertaking national tasking, the description on the website stated.

Under this framework, India has in the past cooperated with CMF on various occasions. For instance, the Combined Maritime Forces's CTF 151 has coordinated with Indian and Chinese warships deployed on anti-piracy duties to patrol the Maritime Security Transit Corridor.

Progressing ahead: U.S. Navy ship Charles Drew arriving at the L&T Shipyard near Chennai on Sunday. • M. VEDHAN

In a first, U.S. Navy ship in India for repairs

The work will go on till August 17

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

In a first, a U.S. Navy Ship, *Charles Drew*, arrived in India for carrying out repairs and allied services at the Larsen & Toubro (L&T) Shipyard at Kattupalli, Chennai on Sunday, adding a new dimension to the fast expanding Indo-U.S. strategic partnership.

"This is the first-ever repair of a U.S. Navy ship in India. The U.S. Navy had awarded a contract to the shipyard for undertaking maintenance of the ship. The event signifies the capabilities of Indian shipyards in the global ship repairing market," a Defence Ministry statement said.

The *USNS Charles Drew* will be at the Kattupalli shipyard for a period of 11 days from August 7 to 17 and undergo repairs in various areas. At the India-U.S. 2+2 in April, both sides agreed to explore the possibilities of utilising Indian shipyards for the repair and maintenance of ships of the U.S. Maritime Sealift Command to support mid-voyage repair of U.S. Naval ships.

J.D. Patil, member of the executive council and adviser to the CEO of L&T for Defence and Smart Technologies, said that the Marine Sealift Command of the U.S. Navy had undertaken rigorous evaluation of select shipyards in India and cleared L&T for undertaking repairs on their vessels which he said was "a recognition for the modern infrastructure at the shipyard built to global standards".

Terming the event a red-letter day for the Indian shipbuilding industry and Indo-U.S. defence relationship, Defence Secretary Ajay Kumar described the arrival of *Charles Drew* for repairs as a sign of a maturing Indian shipbuilding industry. "Today, India has six major shipyards with a turnover of nearly $2 billion. We have our own design house capable of making all kinds of state-of-the-art ships. The country's first Indigenous Aircraft Carrier *Vikrant* is a shining example of the growth of the industry," he said. In the next two or three 3 years, India will see the first large-size marine diesel engine being designed and developed in the country, Mr. Kumar said

He further said, "In a big step towards ship building efforts, a decision has been made to develop the capabilities of naval shipyards and marine diesel engines in India of six megawatts and above will be designed and manufactured in the country." Request for proposal in this regard will be floated by the Indian Navy.

"It has been decided to develop the diesel marine engine under the 'make-one' procedure wherein the government provides 70% assistance to the project cost for design and development of the engine and in the in-principle approval has been given," he added.

Judith Ravin, U.S. Consul-General in Chennai, said, "In April U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Secretary of Defence Lloyd Austin affirmed their intention to explore utilising Indian shipyards for repairs on U.S. Navy vessels. This inaugural repair of the ship is a landmark development."

Vice-Admiral S.N. Ghormade, Vice Chief of the Naval Staff, said Voyage Repair Availability of *Charles Drew* shows the kind of mutual trust and also consolidates our status as a major defence partner.

(With inputs from Sunitha Sekar)

Satellites launched by SSLV in wrong orbit

It is not the first time for ISRO to face a setback on its maiden launch missions as PSLV – dubbed as one of the trusted workhorses for the space agency – was not successful in its first flight way back on September 20, 1993.

After its first successful launch in October 1994, PSLV emerged as the reliable and versatile launch vehicle of India with 39 consecutively successful missions by June 2017. It had successfully launched the Chandrayaan-1 in 2008 and also the Mars Orbiter Spacecraft in 2013 that later travelled to the Moon and Mars, respectively.

The first flight of GSLV in April 2001 carrying GSAT-1 was successful for ISRO. From January 2014, the vehicle has achieved four consecutive successes, ISRO said. The first developmental flight of GSLV Mk-III successfully placed GSAT-19 satellite to a Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO) on June 5, 2017.

Only 3 IPS officers opt for Central deputation

Two IAS officers each from Gujarat and Bihar cadres, while one each from Uttarakhand, Telangana, Sikkim, Manipur, Maharashtra, Nagaland, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka and AGMUT cadres.

The Union government has been facing acute shortage of AIS officers and to tide over the crisis, the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) mooted a proposal in December 2021 to depute Indian Administrative Service (IAS), IPS and Indian Forest Service (IFoS) officers to Centre without necessarily taking the State government's nod. The DoPT said that in spite of existing provisions, States were not sponsoring adequate numbers of officers for Central deputation and the available officers were not sufficient to meet the requirement of the Union. The proposal is still being examined.

Before an AIS officer is called for Central deputation, his or her concurrence is required.

The DoPT informed the Parliament recently that as on January 1, there are 1,472 vacancies in IAS and 864 vacancies in IPS in various States. The total sanctioned strength of IAS and IPS officers are around 6,700 and 4,900 respectively. AIS officers are recruited by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) on behalf of the Centre and their services are then placed under various State cadres.

The DoPT has said that it is incumbent upon the members of service to serve both under the State and the Centre.

In case of IAS officers, the Establishment Officer in the DoPT invites nominations from State governments. Once the nomination is received, their eligibility is scrutinised by a panel and then an offer list is prepared, traditionally done with the State government on board. Central ministries and offices can then choose from the list of officers on offer. The publication of offer list on the DoPT's website was discontinued by the government in 2018 amid reports that not many State government officers were willing to come to the Centre.

Cong. to take up joblessness in Haryana

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

As the Monsoon Session of the Haryana State Assembly is slated to start on August 8, the Congress has decided to corner the ruling BJP-Jannayak Janta Party coalition government on issues surrounding unemployment, deteriorating law and order and illegal mining among others.

Leader of the Opposition Bhupinder Singh Hooda on Sunday said several public-centric issues were discussed in the recently held meeting of the Congress Legislature Party and all those issues will be firmly raised in the Assembly.

"We will expose the anti-people stance and policies of the ruling BJP-JJP government. We will seek answers from the government over rising unemployment, the collapse of law and order, illegal mining, corruption, and 'Agnipath' scheme among other public interest issues. Congress MLAs have given calling attention and adjournment motions on these issues to the Speaker demanding discussion in the House during the session," Mr. Hooda said. The three-day Monsoon Session will begin on August 8 and end on August 10.

States holding up results of Economic Census: Centre

Parliament panel raps Ministry of Statistics for the delay

VIKAS DHOOT
NEW DELHI

The Centre has blamed the States for a prolonged delay in releasing the findings of the Seventh Economic Census, a critical compendium of formal and informal non-farm enterprises operating across the country, in a submission to the Parliament's Standing Committee on Finance.

The committee, chaired by BJP MP Jayant Sinha, has rapped the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation for the second time in five months over 'a growing delay' in releasing the findings of Economic Census (EC), carried out between 2019 and 2021, rendering some of the data 'outdated'.

Responding to a recommendation made by the committee in March to 'release the EC without any further delay lest the data becomes infructuous', the Ministry has attributed its inaction to the lack of requisite nods from States and Union Territories (UTs) for the provisional results.

Conducted every five years, the EC, which also captures the employment creation by each firm, their ownership pattern and sources of finance at a granular level, was last carried out in 2013-14.

Jayant Sinha

Concerted efforts

Field work for the Seventh EC, which had deployed IT-enabled tools for the first time to facilitate real-time data analytics, had begun in July 2019.

The availability of digitised data, as opposed to paper-based canvassing in earlier ECs, was expected to lead to quick finalisation and dissemination of results.

"The approval of provisional results of 7th EC at State level is the mandate of State Level Coordination Committee constituted under the chairpersonship of the Chief Secretary of State/UTs," the Ministry informed the committee as per its report tabled last week.

While the Ministry said it was making 'concerted efforts' to coordinate with State governments to convene these meetings early and pave the way for the results to be released, it concluded by stating: "However, approvals of the States/UTs are not forthcoming."

The parliamentary panel has responded sternly to what it termed a 'routine reply' and hauled up the Statistics Ministry for having 'now sought to shift the onus on the States and UTs' for holding up the provisional results of the census.

"The Ministry has to squarely assume responsibility in this regard, as it is being conducted by them as a central sector scheme. It is high time that the Ministry should expedite the process of enumeration and produce reliable data publicly," the panel commented.

The latest EC is expected to capture the changes in India's economic landscape since the implementation of policy shifts such as demonetisation, the Goods and Services Tax and paring of corporate taxes.

APPEAL

Kindly help **3 years old Baby Aashima Sherin** who is on ventilator for Severe Pneumonia for a month and is still in Kanchi Kamakoti Childs Trust Hospital, Chennai. She comes from a very poor family and cannot afford the huge expenditure of **Rs.3,00,000/-** for the hospital expenditure. We appeal to all kind hearted people to save the child with your generous donations. Donations sent by Ch/D.D. favouring **The Childs Trust will be acknowledged.** The donations sent through Ch/D.D/NEFT Transfer & GOOGLE PAY (Canara Bank, Nungambakkam Branch, A/C No.60182010063310, IFSC No. CNRB0016018) favouring **WOMEN'S WELFARE SYNDICATE** are entitled for exemption under 80G IT. Please give us your e mail id.

All correspondence is done through **WWS**, Regd. Public Charitable Trust, **Flat No.GF 1, Cordiel Apartments, O.No.13, N.No.29, Pycrofts Garden Lane, Chennai - 600006. Ph: 044-42137481/28225324/7338978827. E Mail ID: womenswelfaresyndicate@gmail.com** Website: www.womenswelfaresyndicate.org

WWS

INTERVIEW | D. RAJA

'All secular democratic parties should come together to defeat the BJP'

Since 2014, the BJP-RSS combine has been destroying the secular character of Indian state... and Left unity is need of the hour, says CPI general secretary

A. M. JIGEESH
NEW DELHI

The 24th Party Congress of the Communist Party of India (CPI) will be held in Vijayawada between October 14 and 18. Ahead of the meeting, the CPI's National Council released a draft political resolution (DPR) which says that the "BJP misrule" has plunged the country into a deep crisis. CPI general secretary **D. Raja** *spoke about various aspects of the resolution.*

The last Party Congress of the CPI said there is a rightward shift in Indian politics. In the 2019 election, the BJP retained power. How do you assess the political atmosphere in the country now?

■ When the BJP came to power in 2014, we said it was not just a change of government, but a characteristic change. The BJP is nothing but a political wing of the RSS whose ideology is divisive, sectarian and communal-fascist. After Mr. Modi returned to power in 2019, the RSS has become quite aggressive.

Since 2014, the BJP-RSS combine has been destroying the secular and welfare character of Indian state. The BJP is giving de facto status to a particular religion. The Prime Minister is converting even Constitutional ceremonies into religious ceremonies. This has never happened before.

The DPR says the system of governance in China, Cuba, Vietnam and Laos are model systems. Why?

■ After the collapse of the Soviet Union, people thought socialism is dead and it is the end of history. We never agreed to this position. Now socialism's global influence is growing.

While capitalism has become a system of unprecedented exploitation and inequality, socialism as an ideology has thrived. That is what we witness in Latin America and in Europe. In France and Germany, the Left gained in the recent elections. Even in India, Mr. Modi often says that communism is a dangerous ideology. Mr. Modi recognises that ultimately he has to face communism. For him, socialism is a threat.

We are critical of the neo-liberal economic policies aggressively pursued by this government

The socialist systems in China and Vietnam helped them handle the COVID-19 crisis in a much better way. They were with the people. In India, we did not encourage our public sector companies in pharmaceuticals. Private sector pharma companies looted the people amid a crisis.

The DPR suggests an alternative economic programme. You are not in power. How will you implement them?

■ We are critical of the neo-liberal economic policies aggressively pursued by this government. Every sector is facing a crisis and economy is in a bad shape. At the same time, people need a sensible alternative beyond the criticism of these policies. That is where we identify public education, public health, housing, employment, right to food and land as the fundamental issues of livelihood of the people. We should mobilise the people on these issues and fight against the government. Corporatisation of agriculture is being promoted. Even if we are not in power, these initiatives can be taken up as cadre responsibility.

Left unity and Opposition unity is facing challenges. How will you combat the BJP in the upcoming Assembly elections and in the 2024 Lok Sabha poll?

■ 2024 is a critical election. We have been saying that all secular democratic parties, social movements and the Left should come together to defeat the BJP. We need national-level unity of the Opposition. The . A united Left can galvanise the democratic forces together.

The historic developments in the country demand that communist parties should be united. There is no meaning of Left unity when communist parties are functioning as small parties and groups. Communist unification based on principles is our objective. We have to assess the national and global situation and each communist party must think how we can work out a common programme. The Presidential election became a fight between two ideas – the idea of the RSS and the idea of secular and democratic India. We tried our best to build secular democratic unity. Our candidate got more than 35% votes, which is not a small thing.

(For full interview go to bit.ly/rajainterview)

EC certifies V-P election result

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Election Commission on Sunday signed the certificate of election of Jagdeep Dhankhar as Vice-President, completing the poll process that began in June. Out of 780 electors, 725 cast their votes and 15 of those were found to be invalid, the Election Commission said in a statement on Sunday.

Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar and Election Commissioner Anup Chandra Pandey signed the Certification of Election of Mr. Dhankhar. A signed copy was then handed over to the Union Home Secretary by officers to be read out at the oath-taking ceremony on August 11, it said.

Mr. Dhankhar, the former West Bengal Governor and NDA candidate, received 528 of the 710 valid votes cast, while Opposition candidate Margaret Alva got 182.

Congress MPs urge Rahul to take back charge as party chief

Issue was discussed when members were detained for protests on August 5

SANDEEP PHUKAN
NEW DELHI

In two weeks, the Congress could notify the final schedule to elect a new party chief but there is still no clarity on whether or not former president Rahul Gandhi will accept the demands of his colleagues to take back the reins of the party.

The leadership issue was intensely discussed on Friday, when 60-odd MPs, including Mr. Gandhi, were detained at the Kingsway Camp police lines for the party's protests against price rise and unemployment.

Several MPs asked Mr. Gandhi to lead the charge against the Narendra Modi government by becoming party chief again.

One of the MPs, who was present, told *The Hindu* that Mr. Gandhi argued that "he didn't have to become the party president to oppose Modi government's policies".

At least, four MPs are said to have countered him with arguments on why he needs to accept the top party post.

"It seemed an inconclusive argument but it was clear that Rahulji wanted clear positions on every issue and not be vague about some," the above-cited source said

Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi with Congress leaders after being detained during a protest on August 5. • PTI

Internal poll schedule

Earlier that day, while addressing a press conference, Mr. Gandhi sidestepped the leadership question by telling presspersons that the media briefing was on price rise and unemployment and he would "not allow it to be distracted".

But the Congress seems to be racing against time. As per an earlier Congress Working Committee-approved (CWC) election schedule, the final leg of the party's internal polls are slated between August 20 and September 20.

The electoral college, made up of about 9,000 All India Congress Committee (AICC) delegates, is almost ready, with only a few States such as Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Karnataka wrapping up their internal poll exercise. Pradesh Congress Committees (PCCs) have also completed their block-level and district-level elections.

Mr. Madhusudan Mistry, who heads the Central Election Authority (CEA) that is tasked with holding the internal polls, said, "We are almost ready and will go according to the schedule that the CWC has already approved."

Along with the internal polls, the Congress followed up on the Udaipur Declaration made in mid-May like setting up a political affairs committee in every State, filling up vacant party posts and most importantly, working out the logistics for the *Bharat Jodo* (unite India) yatra. Originally scheduled to start on October 2, the yatra could be advanced now.

A panel of senior leaders, headed by senior leader Digvijaya Singh, is giving final shape to *Bharat Jodo* yatra that will begin from Kanyakumari and end in Jammu and Kashmir.

Though the finer details are still being worked out and the party is yet to make them public, the yatra plans to cover about 3,500 km in nearly 150 days.

Nirmala set to visit Baramati as BJP eyes Pawar's bastion

She will tour the constituency between August 16 and 18

SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE
PUNE

After aiding Eknath Shinde in his coup which split Uddhav Thackeray's Shiv Sena, the BJP is now eyeing NCP chief Sharad Pawar's bastion of the Baramati Lok Sabha constituency in Pune district.

Leaving no stone unturned to breach the impregnable constituency of the Pawars, senior BJP leader and Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is expected to visit the constituency in Pune district between August 16 and 18 in a bid to enthuse the cadre.

Ms. Sitharaman, who is expected to visit the Assembly segments in Baramati, will interact with the BJP workers and take stock of the party's strength in a constituency which has been a stronghold of the Pawar family since the NCP's formation in 1999.

Nirmala Sitharaman

The visit is part of the BJP's 'Pravas' campaign to shore up its base in 144 Lok Sabha constituencies ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha election.

Sixteeen of these constituencies are in Maharashtra.

Along with Ms. Sitharaman, Union Minister of State for Tribal Affairs Renuka Singh will be visiting Shirur during the same period.

Of the four Lok Sabha seats in Pune district, the BJP holds just Pune (comprised of mainly the urban segments). The NCP holds Baramati and Shirur, while Maval is held by the Shiv Sena's Shrirang Barne.

However, an advantage for the BJP this time is that Mr. Barne has now joined the rebel Eknath Shinde camp, which is allied to the saffron party.

Given Baramati's strong identification with "Brand Pawar", the BJP has had a tough time making inroads in this constituency.

Yet, in the 2014 Lok Sabha election, Rashtriya Samaj Paksha leader Mahadev Jankar, who hails from the Dhangar community, had given the NCP's Supriya Sule a scare after the latter managed to win the family borough by fewer than 70,000 votes. With the recent toppling of the MVA government, whose 'architect' was widely considered to be Sharad Pawar, the BJP is again scenting an opportunity.

JD(U) says it won't join Union Ministry; hits back at R.C.P. Singh

He quit after party sought an explanation on graft charges

AMARNATH TEWARY
PATNA

A day after former Janata Dal (U) president and former Union Steel Minister R.C.P. Singh resigned from the party, saying "JD(U) is a sinking ship", party president and Lok Sabha member Rajiv Ranjan Singh, aka Lalan Singh, hit back at the former asserting that the party was a running ship.

Mr. Lalan Singh added that sooner or later, Mr. R.C.P. Singh had to go from the party as only his body was in the party but his soul was somewhere else.

The party on Sunday made it clear that it will not join the Union Ministry again, but rebuffed speculation of a rift with the BJP, asserting "all is well" in the alliance.

Mr. Lalan Singh, who addressed a press conference here, however, dismissed queries about Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's absence at the NITI Aayog meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, with the terse remark, "You should ask the Chief Minister."

Mr. Lalan Singh who was regarded as a frontrunner by some for a ministerial berth from the JD(U) after Mr. R.C.P. Singh's resignation, clarified that the party was not willing to have any representative in the Ministry.

"JD(U) is not a sinking ship but a running ship.

Lalan Singh

And, who deserts a ship when it starts sinking? Everyone knows it. There was a conspiracy going on against Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and let the time come, we will also let you know about the conspiracy," the party chief said while addressing presspersons at the party headquarters in Patna.

Taking on the former party chief, once a close aide of Mr. Nitish, he further said, "Sooner or later, he [R.C.P. Singh] had to go from the party as only his body was here but soul somewhere else."

Nitish's decision

"It was Nitish Kumar who had made him [R.C.P. Singh] the party president and in 2021 as party president, it was his decision to join the Union Cabinet, while Mr. Nitish Kumar, in 2019, after consulting with every top leader of the party, had made it clear that the JD(U) will not be joining the Union Cabinet," Mr. Lalan Singh added. "But can a caretaker be the owner," Mr. Singh asked. "Today, I'm the party president and the post was given to me by our leader Nitish Kumar. I'm only the caretaker of the party, not the owner," he said.

"The JD(U) has emerged after several struggles but does he [R.C.P. Singh] know of the struggle? He only stayed close to power, not struggle," the JD(U) president said. Meanwhile, sources in the party told *The Hindu* that JD(U) had called all its party MPs to Patna by Monday evening for a meeting along with Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on August 9.

On Saturday, the JD(U) sought an explanation from Mr. R.C.P. Singh over alleged graft charges related to purchase of 58 plots by his family members from 2013 to 2022.

Mr. R.C.P. Singh resigned from the party on Saturday over the alleged graft charges against his family members, saying, "I had no idea they [JD-U leaders] will stoop so low and make such frivolous charges against my family members." Sources close to him said he had also been mulling a defamation case against some party leaders who tried to "malign" his image by making such charges.

(With PTI inputs)

CIAL COCHIN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT LTD.
CIAL/COML/PROJ 10/2022/1 06.08.2022
TENDER NOTICE
CIAL FIVE STAR HOTEL
Cochin International Airport invites RFP from agencies in the hospitality field for operation of a 112 key hotel. For eligibility and other conditions, please visit our website www.cial.aero under tenders.
Sd/-
Managing Director

SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER PHED CIRCLE NCR ALWAR
PHED CAMPUS, MANU MARG ALWAR (RAJ.)
E-Mail- sencr.alw.phed@rajasthan.gov.in
No-2290-2308 Date- 1/8/22
NOTICE INVITING BID (NIT No. 144-158 / 2022-23)
Bids for Works of Construction of Source, PLI of Rising Main & Distribution Pipe Line with FHTC, Construction of Reservoir for Various villages under Rural Div. I NCR Alwar are invited from interested bidders upto 05.00 PM on Date 07.09.2022. Other particulars of the Bid may be visited on the procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in) of the state and https://phedwater.rajasthan.gov.in departmental website.
UBN:
PHE2223WSOB04885, PHE2223WSOB04886, PHE2223WSOB04887, PHE2223WSOB04888, PHE2223WSOB04889, PHE2223WSOB04890, PHE2223WSOB04891, PHE2223WSOB04892, PHE2223WSOB04893, PHE2223WSOB04902, PHE2223WSOB04903, PHE2223WSOB04904, PHE2223WSOB04905, PHE2223WSOB04906, PHE2223WSOB04907
L. P. Bairwa
DIPR/C/10290 Superintending Engineer

Startup Odisha
(2nd Floor, Tower-A, Odisha Startup Incubation Centre (O-Hub), Special Economic Zone, Infocity, Patia, Bhubaneswar-751024)
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
Sealed proposals are invited from reputed firms for "Selection of an agency for conducting Startup Odisha Yatra 2.0". The details of tender/RFP documents and other details can be downloaded from www.startupodisha.gov.in wef 07.08.2022. Important dates are as follows :

Date of Commencement of RFP	Date & time of Prebid meeting	Last Date & Time for Submission of Proposal	Date and time for Technical Presentation	Date for Financial Bid Opening (Tentative)
06-08-2022	16-08-2022, 11 AM	22-08-2022, 5 PM	23-08-2022, 11 AM	22-08-2022, 5 PM

The last date of receipt of proposal is 22.08.2022, 5 PM, which will be opened on the same day. All the Prospective Bidders are also advised to kindly keep referring Startup Odisha website (www.startupodisha.gov.in) for any updates in reference to the RFP/Tender.
CEO, STARTUP ODISHA
KK-112 OIPR - 43007/11/8005/2223

Government of Tamil Nadu
HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT
Superintending Engineer (H),
Chennai Metropolitan Development Plan Circle, Saidapet, Chennai - 15
TENDER NOTICE
Tender Notice No: 04/2022-23/CMDP/DO/dated.03.08.2022
(Online Only)
For and on behalf of the Governor of Tamil Nadu, Percentage Tender under Two Cover System, through online only for Division – I work of 'Formation of Tambaram Eastern Bypass Road branching from Km 17/4 of Marmalong Bridge–Irumbuliyur Road from Rajakilpakkam (via) Agaramthen Road towards Perungalathur in Km 3/900 - 5/450 including the Construction of drain in the left out stretch at Km 5/450 – 7/000' will be received upto 14.09.2022, 15.00 hours by the Superintending Engineer (H), Chennai Metropolitan Development Plan Circle, Saidapet, Chennai-15.
Detailed scope of work, approximate value, EMD, availability of tender document and all other details are available from 12.08.2022 onwards in the Government website https://tntenders.gov.in. If any Changes / Corrections / Amendments etc to the tender, it will be published in the above Government website only.
Superintending Engineer(H),
CMDP Circle, Saidapet, Chennai-15.
DIPR/3869/Tender/2022

Odisha State Medical Corporation Limited (OSMCL)
In front of Ram Mandir, Convent Square, Unit-III, Bhubaneswar-751 001
Tel.:(0674) 2380608; Website: www.osmcl.nic.in, Email: proc.osmcl.od@nic.in
Assuring Quality, Saving Lives
Notification No.5716 / OSMCL / 2022 Date : 06.08.2022
NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER FOR SUPPLY, INSTALLATION & COMMISSIONING OF LABORATORY EQUIPMENT WITH THEIR REAGENTS
Online Bids through e-Tender portal (https://tendersodisha.gov.in) are invited from eligible bidders for supply, installation & commissioning of Equipments as per the particulars mentioned below :

Sl.	Bid Reference No.	Item Name	Bid Document Cost inclusive of GST (Rs.)
1.	OSMCL / 2022-23 / EQP-LAB / 10	For Supply, Installation & Commissioning of Laboratory Equipment With Their Reagents	5,600/-

Sl. No.	Particulars	Date and time	
1.	Date & time of release of bid	06.08.2022, 5 PM	
2.	Date & time of Pre-Bid meeting	12.08.2022, 03.00 PM Venue : Conference Hall, Odisha State Medical Corporation Ltd., In front of Ram Mandir, Convent Square, Unit-III, Bhubaneswar	
3.	Date & time of Online bid submission	Start Date & Time	End Date & Time
		20.08.2022, 3 PM	02.09.2022, 5 PM
4.	Date & time of online Technical Bid Opening	05.09.2022, 3 PM	
5.	Date of opening of Price Bid	To be informed to the qualified bidders	

The bid document with all information relating to the bidding process including cost of bid document, Prequalification criteria and terms & conditions are available in the websites: www.osmcl.nic.in and https://tendersodisha.gov.in . The Authority reserves the right to accept / reject any part thereof or all the bids without assigning any reason thereof.
By the Order's of Managing Director, OSMCL
Sd/-
GM-Operations (Equipment), OSMCL
CAD-1413 OIPR-10112/11/0030/2223

Akasa Air the latest to join India's skies

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

India has a brand-new airline in Akasa Air, which launched its first flight between Mumbai and Ahmedabad on Sunday morning.

The airline will offer 28 weekly flights on this route, followed by the same frequency on the Bengaluru-Kochi route from August 13 and the Bengaluru-Mumbai route from August 19, making a total of 82 weekly flights available within the first few weeks of its launch.

The airline aims to provide connectivity between metro and tier-2 and tier-3 cities, instead of only directing its focus on the cut-throat metro-to-metro routes.

Minister for Civil Aviation Jyotiraditya Scindia and Minister of State for Civil Aviation V.K. Singh attended the launch ceremony virtually.

Mr. Scindia called the occasion a "new dawn" for the civil aviation sector.

CSIR gets its first woman chief

N. Kalaiselvi, 'lithium battery expert', is expected to aid India's e-vehicle push

JACOB KOSHY
NEW DELHI

The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has, for the first time in its 80-year history, appointed a woman Director-General.

N. Kalaiselvi, currently Director of the CSIR-Central Electro Chemical Research Institute (CSIR-CECRI), Karaikudi, Tamil Nadu, will now lead the network of 38 laboratories and nearly 4,500 scientists, and has been appointed for two years, said a note from the Appointments Committee of the Union Cabinet.

Ms. Kalaiselvi's research spans over 25 years and is focused on electrochemical power systems and developing electrode materials, custom-design synthesis methods, optimising reaction parameters and electrochemical evaluation of in-house prepared electrode materials for making energy storage devices.

Her research interests include lithium and beyond lithium batteries, supercapacitors and waste-to-wealth driven electrodes and electrolytes for energy storage and electro-catalytic applications.

Credits galore: Ms. Kalaiselvi (second from right) published many research papers, holds six patents. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

She has been involved in projects to increase electric mobility in India and her expertise in these sectors will likely help with India's push towards increasing the number of electric vehicles. India has around 1.4 million electric vehicles comprising motorbikes, cars, three-wheelers and buses.

The Centre announced the second phase of a programme, FAME (Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of (Hybrid &) Electric Vehicles in India), that will invest ₹10,000 crore in developing electric vehicle infrastructure.

A long journey

From Ambasamudram village in Tirunelveli district of Tamil Nadu to heading the CSIR as its first woman Director-General, it has been a long journey for Ms. Kalaiselvi. Having studied in a Tamil-medium school in the district, she had gone on to pursue her Ph.D. degree from Annamalai University in Chidambaram.

In February 2019, Ms. Kalaiselvi was appointed Director of the Karaikudi-based Central Electro Chemical Research Institute (CECRI). This is the first time a scientist from the CECRI has been appointed Director-General of the CSIR.

A scientist from the CECRI said Ms. Kalaiselvi was better known as "lithium battery expert" among the academics. She was instrumental in bringing out a number of research papers, has six patents to her credit and was a guide to research scholars in pursuing their Ph.D. degrees.

The CECRI will be celebrating its platinum jubilee in 2022 from where Ms. Kalaiselvi has been elevated to the top position in the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research as its Director-General, New Delhi, the scientist added.

(With inputs from Srikrishna L.)

'Delayed disbursement of fellowship a rights violation'

Disabled scholars report 'depression and helplessness'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

An association of scholars selected for the National Fellowship for Persons with Disabilities (NFPwD) has termed the delay in disbursement of fellowships a violation of the fundamental right to equality.

In a letter dated August 5 to Social Justice Minister Virendra Kumar, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and University Grants Commission Chairperson Mamidala Jagadesh Kumar, as well as officers of the Ministries and the UGC, the NFPwD Scholars Association pointed out that the Ph.D. scholars had applied in December 2020 and the UGC announced results only in January 2022.

Documents submitted

"The UGC took more than a year to process the applications and release the result. After the announcement of the result, a lot of selected candidates have submitted the required documents to Canara Bank. Yet, their fellowships have not been disbursed," the association said in the letter.

Great delay: The UGC had taken over a year to process the applications.

Change in rules

The Hindu reported on August 6 that the national fellowships for PwD as well as for Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Classes Ph.D. scholars, all under the Social Justice Ministry, have not been disbursed since April, after a change in rules for flow of funds by the Finance Ministry in March.

Many batches hit

The association said the delay had led to issues of "depression and helplessness" for some scholars and had left many of them unable to focus on their research and education. It added that the impediment was not only for the 2020-21 batch, but also for the preceding batches of scholars.

"Such a long delay also violates the fundamental right to equality (since the delay is much longer in NFPwD vis-a-vis other comparable fellowships) and to life with dignity," the letter said.

The association asked the Ministers and officials to intervene in the matter and disburse the fellowships immediately.

SpiceJet flyers take to the tarmac after long wait

DGCA probes delay by airline's bus

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

A significant number of passengers who disembarked from SpiceJet's Hyderabad-Delhi flight on Saturday night had to walk on the airport's tarmac as the airline could not provide a bus for around 45 minutes to take them to the terminal, sources said.

Aviation regulator Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) is investigating the incident, sources said on Sunday.

The flight with 186 passengers on board landed in Delhi around 11.24 p.m. Sources said that while one bus took a section of passengers to terminal 3, the rest waited for 45 minutes and still had no bus come to take them.

That is when they started walking on the tarmac; after 11 minutes of walking, a bus came to take them to the terminal, they added.

Charges denied

Spicejet, however, said there was a brief delay in the arrival of coaches, and once the buses came, all the passengers, including those who had started walking, travelled on them from the tarmac to the terminal building.

"Despite repeated requests from our staff, a few passengers started walking towards the terminal. They had barely walked a few metres when the coaches arrived. All passengers, including those who had started walking, travelled on the coaches to the terminal building," the airline mentioned.

On high alert

Strict vigil: Policemen block a road during restrictions imposed to stop the Muharram procession in Srinagar. • NISSAR AHMAD

Foreigners' Tribunals appointments hang fire

Petition filed by 238 selected people

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

The Gauhati High Court has asked the Centre and the Assam government to collectively decide whether or not the ministerial staff for 200 additional Foreigners' Tribunals (FT) would be appointed.

Justice Achintya Malla Bujor Barua passed the order on August 3 after hearing a writ petition filed by 238 people who went through a selection process to be appointed as the ministerial staff for the additional FT members.

Assam had as many as 100 FTs prior to the publication of the complete draft of the updated National Register of Citizens (NRCs) in August 2019.

To hear appeals

The State government appointed 221 members – practising lawyers, retired civil servants and judicial officers – in September that year to hear the appeals of the 19.06 lakh people excluded from the published list of citizens.

The court noted that the petitioners were selected in view of the decision of the Union Home Ministry to increase the number of FTs in Assam to 1,000 to cope with the expected litigation after rejection slips are issued by the NRC authority to the people excluded from the updated document.

New recruitments were selected for the addition for more tribunals. • AP

In October 2021, the Assam government extended the validity of the selection list of the ministerial staff against the 200 additional FTs and said it will not expire.

"It can be understood that the authorities may be waiting to take a decision on the appointment of the ministerial staff as the process of issuing rejection slips by the NRC, upon which it is expected that the number of referred cases in the FTs would be more, is yet to take place," the court observed.

"We also take note of that the candidates, who, pursuant to an advertisement, had participated in a selection process and thereafter became successful, also have a legal right to know about the ultimate outcome of the process in which they had participated," the court noted, directing the Centre and the State government to file an affidavit within four weeks stating their decisions in this regard.

Centre mum on availability, requirement of key leprosy drug

Acute shortage of clofazimine in the country for months now

A.S. JAYANTH
KOZHIKODE

Hospitals across the country have been facing an acute shortage of clofazimine, one of the key drugs to treat leprosy, for months now. But the Union Health and Family Welfare Ministry does not want to part with information on its availability and requirement.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), India hosts 66% of the leprosy patients in the world. Doctors say that clofazimine is one of the three essential drugs used in the multi-drug treatment of multibacillary leprosy cases along with rifampicin and dapsone. Under the National Leprosy Eradication Programme, the government has been ensuring a steady supply of monthly blister packs containing these three drugs for 12 months to the patients.

Many people, however, require extended treatment and the packs may be lost, misplaced or damaged too. The medicines may also have to be privately bought.

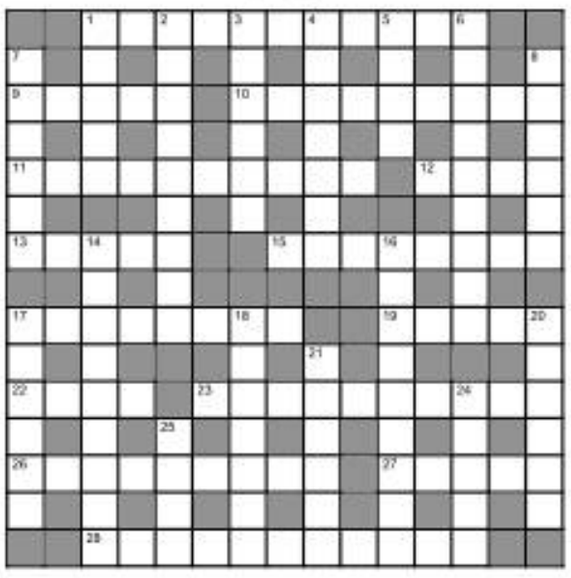
Though the other two drugs are easily available, clofazimine is not. Its non-availability, doctors say, can lead to a dangerous situation as all the three drugs will have to be given together to prevent drug-resistant leprosy. Clofazimine has been recommended by the WHO to treat multi-drug resistant tuberculosis. In June, the Indian Association of Dermatologists, Venereologists, and Leprologists (IADVL) wrote to Union Health and Family Welfare Minister Mansukh Mandaviya to address the shortage.

However, when Kannur-based ophthalomologist K.V. Babu sought year-wise data on the quantity of clofazimine used in India from January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2021, under the Right to Information (RTI) Act, the reply from the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) was that "the information sought is not available in this office". He had sought year-wise data on the quantity of the drug procured/produced/imported in India and sought to know if the Ministry had received a letter dated June 21 from the IADVL. The Central Public Information Officer (CPIO) replied that "a CPIO is not expected to create/provide intangibles such as interpretations, explanations, opinions, advice, reasons on the queries raised by the applicants as they cannot be said to be included in the definition of information in Section 2 (f) of the RTI Act." The RTI query was filed on June 30, which was forwarded to the NPPA. The reply was dated July 8.

TH CROSSWORD + 13629

(set by Incognito)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*



Across

1 Indian with joints stays (11)
9 AT&T in-charge's room at the top (5)
10 Musical instrument's alternating current wire has charged particle (9)
11 Soccer player's barefoot, dribbling around left line (10)
12 Rodents run back for popular actor (4)
13 Spanish friend's a fighter, love (5)
15 ISIS captures violent earl and some middle easterners (8)
17 Wrongly suppress arm strengthening exercises (5-3)
19 To some extent, desecrate a seer's rib (5)
22 With difficulty, pull Doctor Silver (4)
23 Calm cop wrongly gets diamond for henchman (10)
26 Found the Basils running amok (9)
27 Pointed part of whale-boat's harpoon (5)
28 Martini poured in grotto? It may reduce gas! (11)

Down

1 Ration distributed without a preamble (5)
2 A stock job arranged to give military footwear (9)
3 Almost before time, just after noon (6)
4 Notices in America, perhaps, alien surrounded by insects (7)
5 Fine! God creates lady's fingers! (4)
6 Isn't lilac folded a little bit? (9)
7 For starters, Royal Air Force fighters initially airlifted some kind of fibre (6)
8 Aboard ship, crazy Nero sleeps soundly (6)
14 Plasticine moulded, after loss of pressure, becomes rigid (9)
16 Saint wanders around, carrying shred pita, for making Italian starters (9)
17 Father's own home near small residence (6)
18 ISI chap confused about Indian game (7)
20 Old English representative and model is not taxable (6)
21 Biblical spy's lei lost during jail-house reconstruction (6)
24 Icon found in Fukushima generator (5)
25 Sailor kidnaps in boy in a type of ski lift (1-3)

SUDOKU

		4	7		8	9		2
	6					7	8	
5			1	2		3		
4	7	5						
						6	2	7
		3		9	5			8
	5	8					3	
6		2	8		1	4		

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

Solution to puzzle 13628

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

7	8	9	3	1	4	5	6	2
4	3	6	9	5	2	8	1	7
2	5	1	8	7	6	3	4	9
5	1	4	2	6	3	9	7	8
3	6	8	7	4	9	1	2	5
9	2	7	1	8	5	6	3	4
6	9	3	5	2	7	4	8	1
1	7	5	4	3	8	2	9	6
8	4	2	6	9	1	7	5	3

FAITH

Spontaneous bhakti

The Tiruvaimozhi hymns reflect how the true spirit of devotion takes root as spontaneous admiration and love towards the Supreme Lord in the jivatma. Nammazhwar alternates between contemplating the Lord's Paratva which puts a distance between him and the Lord and His Saulabhya that is evinced in His vibhava, archa, antaryami forms. Interpreters of Tiruvaimozhi show how very clearly Azhwar reiterates the truth that the jivatma's limitations as a 'samsari' in this world need not be a deterrent for him to seek His feet, pointed out Atthangi Sri Srinivasachariar in a discourse.

In the first Tiruvaimozhi pathigam, Azhwar explains the Lord's Paratva; in the second, he asks us to sing His glories, pray to Him and worship Him; in the third, His accessibility is emphasised. His coming down to live among the simple folk in Ayarpadi and even His penchant for butter is only an excuse for showering Grace on the people. What ineffable compassion has He shown when He allowed Himself to be bound to a grinding stone by Yasodha, wonders Azhwar with a melting heart? Bhakti is an overwhelming experience of God's very essence that makes the heart melt with love and devotion.

The Lord explains Bhakti Yoga in the Gita and describes its various stages to show that it has to be felt constantly in the consciousness of the jivatma. It is a form of penance, no doubt, but when His Saulabhya is the object of contemplation, it becomes most enjoyable. Bhakti motivates the prapanna to seek surrender at His feet, the ultimate protector of all. This act of 'bhara samarpana' makes him stronger in His devotion. Azhwar shows that the experience of bhakti is pleasing to the jivatma both in separation as well as in union with the Lord through the hymns sung as Parankusa Nayaki.

ASK US

BHAVANA ACHARYA

Q. I am 23. I can invest ₹5,000-₹7,000 in stocks and mutual funds. What are the best options for the same to get a good return? I also want to know what 'dividend' stocks are?

LATAKSHI BHANOT

A. If you intend to invest in stocks, you need both time and understanding of markets and stocks to know which to buy, when to book profits, when to exit. It's not a simple list of 'best' stocks to buy today. Therefore, it's best that you begin with investing in mutual funds. Once you have a better grip on the market movements, understand how to look at stocks, and understand the risks involved, you can gradually start investing in stocks.

This will also let you build up a more stable investment corpus in funds which can continue to grow, and then take on the higher risk, direct stock investments. Mutual funds are easier investments as they require far lesser understanding of market nuances and timing than stocks, are professionally managed and allow you to invest and hold for any length of time.

You can begin with plain large-cap equity index funds such as the Nifty 50 and flexi-cap equity funds, or hybrid aggressive funds. For ₹7,000, have 2-3 funds at most.

Add on more aggressive funds once your investment amount increases. Do note that equity funds require a minimum holding period of at least 5-7 years. If your investment time frame is shorter, stick to hybrid aggressive funds or debt funds.

As far as 'dividend stocks' go, the explanation of the dividend concept in stocks, how they can be used in a portfolio and how to pick them is far too extensive to be briefed here. You can turn to online sources to understand more about them.

Q. I am 22 and will be starting my first job this year. I estimate my investible surplus to be about ₹20,000 a month. I may go for higher studies 2-3 years later. How should I go about investments and insurance?

INAN GUPTA

A. Unless you have family members who are financially dependent on you, it is not essential that you take life insurance right away at your age, in your first job, and since you intend to study further. For health insurance, take up a basic health insurance policy with a reasonable sum insured.

To know where to invest, ideally, you should have some idea on how long you can stay invested before you need it. If you intend to use the investments to finance part of your higher education with a time frame of about 3 years, go for hybrid aggressive funds or balanced advantage funds. Also, consider fixed deposits from small finance banks or other banks that offer high interest (invest up to ₹5 lakh in each bank, if so) for this time frame. Note that interest income is taxable.

Else, if you're looking at longer-term holding of at least 5-7 years, start with large-cap equity index funds and flexi-cap funds. Allocate 40-50% of the amount to these funds. With the balance, consider more aggressive equity funds that invest in mid-caps and small-cap stocks like focussed, multi-cap or mid-cap funds. You can go up to 25% in these funds, but be aware that they are high risk. If you cannot handle volatility, avoid them and use aggressive hybrid and large-cap based funds instead. Allocate 25-35% to short-duration debt funds. Use a maximum of 4-5 funds in total.

Q. Please clarify as to whether a senior citizen could invest/operate ₹15 lakh each in SCSS and PMVVY at the same time.

SUKUMAR NITHYANANDA

A. Yes, you can invest up to ₹15 lakh each in the Senior Citizens Savings Scheme and the Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana at the same time. They both are great investment options for senior citizens.

Q. I have ₹4 lakh. With this, can I buy gold or invest in a post-office fixed deposit?

KOYALKAR RAHUL

A. Where to invest this sum has to be based on how much this amount accounts for in your overall investment, the nature of your current investments, how long you can hold, and your risk level. Gold can only be used as a hedge against equity volatility. If gold accounts for less than 5% of your investments and you have a long-term holding, invest in gold up to 10% of your portfolio. Otherwise, if you do not invest in equity or you already have sizeable gold investments, go ahead with fixed deposits in post office or banks.

Q. I have a PF account which was opened in June 2012. Should I continue with it?

SENTHIL KUMAR M

A. You may already be investing in other options for retirement. But even so, you can still continue with PF investments unless you have built up more than enough for retirement. For one, it is among the safest instruments you have. Two, it's also more tax-efficient than other fixed-income instruments and this bumps up its comparative post-tax returns. Three, in any portfolio, mixing of high-risk and high-returning options with low-risk options is essential to balance risk and return. For retirement portfolios, PF contributions can constitute a small part of this low-risk requirement. The long lock-in also ensures that you do not unnecessarily use this amount to meet other expenses. The con is it delivers lower return; if your overall investment itself is on the smaller side, the lower return can make it harder for you to reach your target. You will also not be able to access this PF amount for any portfolio rebalancing.

(The adviser is Co-founder, PrimeInvestor.in)

Readers can e-mail queries on personal finance and investing to the moneywise@thehindu.co.in ID. The experts on personal finance will answer select queries. Moneywise will not give specific recommendations for investment in a particular mutual fund scheme, share or fixed deposit.

Why Buffett bats for INDEX FUNDS

IMAGING: J.A. PREMKUMAR

Such funds own a basket of actively-traded stocks, are low on costs and not personality centric

AARATI KRISHNAN

Thousands of investors from around the world tune into the annual general meetings of American conglomerate Berkshire Hathaway Inc. and read its shareholder letters.

They hope to receive investing wisdom from Warren Buffett, Berkshire's Chairman and CEO, who has become one of the world's richest men by owning shares in great American companies.

But one piece of advice that Mr. Buffett repeats in every meeting, whenever asked for stock tips, is to invest in an index fund instead. "Consistently buy an S&P 500 low-cost index fund. Keep buying it through thick and thin, especially through thin," he once quipped. Mr. Buffett has also said that after his death, he's instructed his trustees to put 90% of his estate into an S&P 500 index fund for the benefit of his wife. This may seem to be strange advice, coming from a veteran investor who has amassed more than $100 billion by actively buying and owning equity stakes in American companies. But Mr. Buffett has sound reasons to recommend index investing to folks who aren't professional investors.

Whether you're an Indian investor who's new to the stock market or a person at the middle of her career who doesn't have the time to pick stocks or funds, Mr. Buffett's advice can apply to you. If you're keen to participate in the return potential of equities without having to manage your portfolio, you can simply take the passive route. Passive investing entails buying into an index fund or Exchange Traded Fund (ETF) that mirrors a broad market index such as the Sensex 30, Nifty50, Nifty100 or Nifty500, by owning the same basket of stocks that the index holds.

Own the biggest

For an investor looking to own equities, one of the toughest choices to make is selecting the right stocks or equity funds to buy. Social media, Whatsapp and Telegram channels are choc-a-bloc with stories of how an investment in Infosys or Asian Paints shares 20 years ago would have made you rich beyond your wildest dreams today. But such stories are shaped by hindsight. For every stock that delivers double-digit gains over the long run, there are dozens that don't get even to a savings-bank return.

Mr. Buffett has also told his trustees to put 90% of his estate into an S&P 500 index fund for the benefit of his wife, after his lifetime

In 2021 at a Berkshire meeting, Mr. Buffett explained that there's a lot more to picking stocks than figuring out what's going to be a "wonderful industry' in future. "There were at least 2,000 companies that entered the (U.S.) auto business (in the 1900s) because it clearly had this incredible future, but in 2009, there were three left, two of which went bankrupt."

Investors who've been around in Indian markets since the nineties will have similar stories to relate about textile giants such as Century Textiles and Bombay Dyeing which used to be part of the Sensex but now are a shadow of their former selves.

If you invest in actively managed mutual funds instead of index stocks, a professional manager does the stock picking for you. But you will still need to choose between hundreds of actively managed equity funds that are sliced and diced based on their market cap, style, sector and themes.

An index fund helps you own a basket of the largest and most actively-traded stocks in the economy, by market value. Market indices such as the Nifty50, Nifty100 or Sensex 30 act as a barometer of the economy and the market. They are, therefore, designed to own the largest and most active stocks in the market, from the listed universe of 5,000-odd stocks, at any given point in time. Companies or sectors that don't perform well or fall off the radar, over time, are automatically replaced by new ones that are growing faster. An investment in a Sensex 30, Nifty 50 or Nifty 100 index fund is simply a bet on the largest companies in the Indian economy.

Low costs

Globally, hedge fund managers are considered to be the smartest folks in finance, juggling among stocks, bonds, exotic instruments and derivatives across countries with the aim of delivering absolute returns, across market conditions. In 2007, Mr. Buffett issued a challenge to the U.S. hedge fund industry saying that it couldn't outperform a simple S&P 500 index fund over the next 10 years, after fees.

The point Mr. Buffett was trying to make was about the difference that fees can make to an investor's long-term results. Hedge funds have traditionally charged quite a stiff fee for their skills consisting of 2% of annual assets in addition to a share of gains above a hurdle rate.

Protégé Partners, an advisory firm, accepted the challenge to create a portfolio of hedge funds. But nine years on, in 2017, it was forced to throw in the towel on the Buffett challenge. In the nine years to 2016, the S&P 500 index fund was up about 85% while the selected hedge funds managed just a 22% gain. When you invest in actively managed equity funds, Portfolio Management Schemes (PMS) or curated portfolios like smallcases, you pay a fee to the portfolio manager to choose the best bets for your portfolio.

The management fees can take a significant bite out of your returns in the long run. Moreover, if the fund or portfolio you own underperforms the market, you may need to sell it and switch to a better performing alternative. This entails capital gains tax and brokerage.

Passive investing saves you both kinds of costs. One, because they merely copy an index and don't attempt any active stock-picking, index funds charge a far lower management fee than actively managed funds. In India, index funds, if you invest directly, charge annual fees as low as 10-20 basis points, while active equity funds charge 75 to 225 basis points. This makes an immediate difference to your returns.

Two, because index providers regularly replace the sectors and stocks in the index to reflect what's current in the market, you needn't frequently churn your funds, saving you capital gains tax.

Not individual dependent

When you choose an actively managed equity fund, PMS or smallcase, you're essentially betting on the investing skills of the individual who is managing your money. But identifying the right fund manager to bet on is no easy task.

Managers who outperform markets in one bull market may not deliver in another. In India, it is also quite difficult to find fund managers who've stayed with one firm for 10-plus years. You may invest in a fund impressed by the skills or track record of its manager, but may find him quitting for greener pastures midway through your investment journey. The investing style and temperament of a fund manager can also make quite a big contribution to a fund's ability to perform across market conditions.

On his quitting, performance can go downhill or change dramatically. Investing in index funds automatically take individual skills out of the equation, as your fund simply owns the stocks that figure in a broad market index.

Index investing is not a panacea, because the stocks that figure in the index are chosen more for size, market fancy and liquidity than their growth prospects or management quality. But, for investors who lack the time or skill to make more nuanced choices, index funds are a hassle-free way to bet on the long-term prospects of the Indian economy.

COVER NOTE: READ THE FINE PRINT

All or nothing

Peruse the technical terms of insurance policy before taking the plunge

K. NITYA KALYANI

One can fill a book on misconceptions about insurance. A lot of this can be traced to insurance companies projecting that everything is covered, intermediaries leaving more unsaid than said and, you and me, the consumers, not doing our own due diligence by asking questions and reading the fine print.

There have been worldwide movements to simplify the language of the law as it affects the common man.

The Plain English movement, or the Plain Language movement, emphasises that contractual language should be simple and understandable by those it binds. It started as a response to the fact that the language in which laws of the land are written is not simple and plain enough for the common man whom it is meant to protect. When it comes to business, this movement impacts insurance the most.

Let us get back to look at some more intended or unintended promises of the insurance industry as seen through technical terms.

We saw in an earlier Cover Note instalment that Constructive Total Loss means a partial loss that is payable as if it is a total loss because the cost of recovery and repair would be untenable. Like a sunken car for example. This was a case of the term sounding negative while it really meant something not that terrible to the insured.

Watch out: Technical terms in insurance plans can make a world of difference when it comes to claims settlement. • GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

Loss-of-profit cover

Here is a sad conundrum. For businesses, there is sophisticated and very valuable insurance called loss-of-profit insurance. Also called consequential loss insurance, it is given on top of regular fire insurance for plant and machinery and covers the loss of profit because of production disruption due to a fire accident.

The production, sales and profits of the plant are taken into account for issuing this policy and the loss of profits is given as claim periodically till the plant is up and running again and production can resume.

So, if a fire destroys the factory, the fire policy will pay for rebuilding it and replacing or repairing the machinery and the loss-of-profits policy will make good lost earnings for the affected period.

However, if the factory is partially destroyed, and some of the production lines can be run even with reduced output, you can't claim under the consequential loss policy. Talk of a case of all or nothing.

'All or nothing' applies to event insurance as well. Whether it is mega events like IPL matches or tennis grand slam events, or a wedding in your family, some underlying concepts are the same.

One is that it is the actual monetary loss as in input costs that is covered. So, material costs that go into preparing for the event like venue, décor, professionals etc. are taken into account. Ticket money collected can also be refunded with the insurance claim, but profits and their loss are not covered. In personal events, the emotional trauma or social fallout of cancellation of a wedding isn't covered.

And, in any case, the coverage for a cricket match, for example, ceases when the first ball is bowled!

All or nothing

So, it is all or nothing again. As for personal events, remember that it is a wedding insurance and not marriage insurance. A falling out between the spouses isn't remotely covered!

Here is another googly that insurers bowl. In property insurance, say for a building or goods in transit, the average clause applies. This states that if at the time of damage, the value of the property is less than its real value, then the claim would also be proportionally less.

Logical, but very annoying when you are at the receiving end. Or rather, the non-receiving end.

Let us end this instalment of Cover Note on a positive note. A double indemnity clause means.... exactly what is says!

A life insurance policy with a sum assured of ₹1 lakh, will pay ₹2 lakh in the case of accidental death. In most cases the additional premium is minuscule.

Watch for these hidden gems in the fine print and do avail of the benefits of being a thorough buyer of insurance.

(The writer is a business journalist specialising in insurance & corporate history)

Life insurance term plan premium

Male: 30 Years, Sum Insured - ₹1 crore, Cover up to - 70 Years

Insurance company	Plan name	Maximum cover up to (Years)	Annual premium ₹
LIC OF INDIA	Tech Term^^^	80	14,122
Aditya Birla Capital	Digishield Plan	85	15,066
Bajaj Allianz	Ebaoch	99^	12626*
Bharti AXA	Flexi Term Pro	99	12,037
Canara HSBC OBC Life	iSelect Star Term Plan	99	14,905
HDFC Life	C2PL Life Protect	100**	16,207
ICICI Prudential	iProtect Smart	99	17190
India First Life	e-Term Plan	70	10,762
Kotak Life Insurance	Kotak e-Term Plan	75	13,608
Max Life Insurance	Smart Secure Plus	85	14246*
PNB Met Life	Mera Term Plan Plus	80	13,452
SBI Life	eShield Next	100***	17,495
TATA AIA Life	Sampoorn Raksha Supreme	100	14,868
Exide	Smart Term Edge Comprehensive	60	15,294
Edelweiss Tokio	Total Protect Plus	100	11,705

^^^Maximum policy term is 40 years | Claim settlement ratio as per data provided by insurer

*Max Life offers additional 5% discount for First year for salaried customers

^ Bajaj whole life is available only on limited pay option

**HDFC whole is available only in limited pay term(Life Protect) & Limited+Single pay term(Income Plus)

***SBI Life offers discounted premium on their website

****SBI eShield Next plan whole life is available only in limited pay with above age 45yrs

* Bajaj offers additional 5% discount on 1st year for salaried customers, ₹500 discount on 1st year premium and 1% discount on autopay

Health insurance premium

Insurer name	Key features	Plan names	Premium (₹)
Care Health	Day Care Treatments Family Floater option Health Checkups No claim bonus Restoration of cover No claim bonus No claim bonus Pre and Post HospitalisationCoverage	NCB Super Premium Care Care with unlimited recharge Care plus Care Heart Care with Enhance Care with (NCB and PED Waive-off Rider) NCB Super Premium with UAR	10,069 9,153 9,840 11,755 14,195 10,783 11,442 10,755
Niva Bupa Health	Day Care Treatments Hospitalization at Home Family Floater option E-consultation Alternate Medicine	Health ReAssure Health Pulse Enhanced Health Companion Health Premia Go Active	9,590 10,161 9,862 16,436 11,747
Star Health	Family Floater option Restoration of cover Wellness Benefits Existing illness cover Restoration of cover once a year Free health checkup	Medi Classic Star Comprehensive Young Star Gold Plan Diabetes Safe Plan-B Woman care Young Star Silver Plan	9,661 11,476 8,389 19,122 12,154 7,133
Aditya Birla Health	Cashless hospitals Day Care Treatments Day 1 coverage Day 1 coverage Day 1 coverage Day 1 coverage Day 1 coverage Day 1 coverage	Activ assure Diamond Activ Health Platinum Enhanced Activ Health Platinum Enhance (Diabetes) Activ Health Platinum Enhance (Asthma) Activ Health Plat. Enhance (Hypertension) Activ Health Platinum Essential Activ Health Platinum Essential (Diabetes) Activ Health Platinum Enhance (Asthma) Activ Health Plat. Enhance (Hypertension)	7,919 9,074 17,912 13,170 19,889 7,474 15,072 11,240 16,587
Chola MS General	Day Care Treatments Hospital Room Eligibility Hospitalization at Home Alternate Medicine	Flexi Health	7,807

Data as on July 2, 2022

Source: LIC of India, www.policybazaar.com

For a 30-year-old male, non-smoker, for sum insured of ₹10 lakh living in a metro city

Insurer name	Key features	Plan names	Premium (₹)
Digit Healthcare Plus	Day Care Treatments Family Floater Option Restoration of cover	Option 2 - Early Cover Option 3 - Super care Super care Option (Direct)	8,064 7,616 6,473
Bajaj Allianz General	Hospital Room Eligibility Wellness Benefits Family Floater Option No claim bonus	Individual Health Guard Bajaj Health Guard - Platinum	12,213 13,570
SBI General Insurance	Free health checkup	Arogya Supreme	13,180
Royal Sundaram General	Day Care Treatments Hospitalization at Home Hospital Room Eligibility Alternate Medicine	Lifeline supreme	8,578
TATA AIG	Pre and Post Hospitalisation Coverage Day Care Treatments Hospitalization at Home Free health checkup	Medicare Medicare Premier	9,820 12,176
Universal Sompo General	Hospitalization at Home Hospital Room Eligibility Alternate Medicine	Complete Healthcare Insurance Privilege	12,241
Raheja QBE	Hospitalization at Home Restoration of Cover Hospital Room Eligibility	Health QuBE Basic Health QuBE SuperSaver Health QuBE Comprehensive	4,947 4,011 5,787
Edelweiss General	Day Care Treatments Hospitalization at Home Hospital Room Eligibility Alternate Medicine	Edelweiss Health Insurance- Gold (Health 241 Add-on) Edelweiss Health Insurance Gold	10,916 8,733
Liberty General	Day Care Treatments Hospitalization at Home Hospital Room Eligibility	Basic Elite Supreme	9,579 10,777 11,337
Oriental Insurance	Pre and Post Hospitalisation Coverage Day Care Treatments Hospitalization at Home	Individual Mediclaim Policy	12,684

China continues drills in Taiwan Strait

It announces live-fire exercises on the Yellow & Bohai seas, between China and the Korean peninsula

ANANTH KRISHNAN
BEIJING

China on Sunday continued its live-fire military exercises in waters near Taiwan for the fourth day, while also announcing new exercises in the Yellow Sea, between China and the Korean peninsula.

The People's Liberation Army (PLA) on Thursday began unprecedented four-day live-fire exercises in six regions surrounding Taiwan, a day after the visit of U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, the highest-level visit in 25 years. The drills were due to conclude on Sunday.

The exercises in recent days marked the first firing of conventional missiles over the island of Taiwan as well as the crossing of dozens of Chinese aircraft and warships across the median line of the Taiwan Strait.

Testing capabilities

On Sunday, the last day of the drills, the PLA Eastern Theatre Command practised "island saturation attack drills and bomber deterrence flights", the Communist Party-run *Global Times* reported, focusing on "testing the troops' joint land attack and long-range air strike capabilities".

Separately, Chinese authorities announced on Sunday it will also conduct live-fire military exercises on the Yellow and Bohai seas, between China and the Korean peninsula. The Bohai Sea drill will be held from Monday until September 8, while Yellow Sea exercises, which started on Sunday, will run until August 15, according to the Maritime Safety Administration.

Combat readiness: Taiwanese F-5 fighter aircraft taking off from an air base in Taitung. •GETTY IMAGES

Taiwan's Ministry of National Defence said on Saturday the drills were likely "a possible simulated attack" on Taiwan. It said Taiwan had tracked 20 PLA aircraft and 14 vessels conducting air-sea operations on Saturday, slightly lower than the record 68 aircraft and 13 vessels that the Ministry said had been tracked on Friday, with some of those crossing the median line of the Taiwan Strait.

Chinese analysts described the exercises as carrying out an effective blockade, with the waters and airspace closed in six regions around Taiwan during the drills, and as signalling a new normal in China's military activities around Taiwan. Two of the exercise zones were off the coast of the ports of Taipei and Keelung, while the southern and eastern zones were off the ports of Kaohsiung and Hualien.

Chinese envoy meets Ranil on ship's Hambantota visit

Colombo has requested Beijing to defer its arrival until talks

MEERA SRINIVASAN
COLOMBO

The Chinese Ambassador to Sri Lanka met President Ranil Wickremesinghe on Saturday to discuss the scheduled arrival of a Chinese vessel at the southern Hambantota Port this week, an official source in Colombo familiar with the development told *The Hindu*, days after India raised concern with Mr. Wickremesinghe.

Chinese Ambassador Qi Zhenhong reportedly sought the meeting with Mr. Wickremesinghe, on receiving a note verbal from the Sri Lankan Foreign Ministry, requesting that the arrival date of *Yuan Wang 5* – a vessel involved in space and satellite tracking – be deferred until "further discussions", but official sources in Colombo said Beijing is yet to accede to their request.

It was the diplomat's second meeting with President Wickremesinghe last week, after he met and congratulated him on August 3, following his inaugural parliamentary speech. Neither the President's office, nor the Chinese Embassy has so far responded to *The Hindu*'s request for comment on Saturday's meeting, even as Colombo tries to navigate tricky geopolitical tensions between its two close partners.

India had raised concerns over *Yuan Wang 5* docking at Hambantota Port. •BRISL.ORG

Discussed at ASEAN meet

Significantly, the ship's visit that was cleared by the Sri Lankan side on July 12, was also taken up at talks held between External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar with Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Ali Sabry on the sidelines of the ASEAN summit in Cambodia last week.

The Indian delegation is said to have expressed concern over a Chinese vessel with "military" capabilities being berthed at Hambantota for nearly a week, in close proximity to the south Indian coast. The issue was also discussed in Mr. Sabry's meeting with China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi, *The Hindu* reliably learns.

Opposition stance

Several opposition parliamentarians in Sri Lanka have weighed in on the development, asking Colombo to recognise India's concerns. Tamil Progressive Leader and opposition MP Mano Ganesan said in a recent tweet: "Is China bringing Indo-Sino war to Sri Lankan waters & soil? When an U.S. carrier goes closer to Taiwan seas, PR China boils & reacts strongly. Isn't India justified in doing the same when China brings naval surveillance vessel Yuan-Wan to Hambantota?"

Sri Lanka Muslim Congress Leader and lawmaker Rauff Hakeem said in a statement that Sri Lankan leaders had given "repeated assurances that nothing inimical" to India's security will be permitted within the territory or territorial waters of Sri Lanka.

"Therefore, it is now the responsibility of the government of Sri Lanka to ensure that it takes all meaningful measures necessary to realise these objectives," he said.

Wang Yi thanks Bangladesh for backing 'One China' policy

Chinese FM meets PM Hasina, discusses Rohingya crisis

KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE
NEW DELHI

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi on Sunday thanked Bangladesh for adhering to the 'One China' policy in the backdrop of the Taiwan crisis. The discussion in this regard took place between Mr. Wang and his Bangladesh counterpart Dr. A.K. Abdul Momen in Dhaka.

"We largely know what is happening centering Taiwan. China has its own policy. He (Wang) thanked Bangladesh and expressed gratitude as we reiterated our position. We hope it will not further aggravate... as the world can't afford to have another crisis," said Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Shahriar Alam, explaining that Bangladesh has urged all sides to exercise "utmost restraint" and avoid any actions that may increase tension and undermine peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region and beyond.

Wang Yi, left, with A.K. Abdul Momen in Dhaka on Sunday. •AP

Mr. Wang and Mr. Momen held talks for an hour following which officials from both sides signed four agreements covering disaster prevention and reduction, cultural and tourism exchange programme between Bangladesh and China during 2023-27 and educational cooperation between the University of Dhaka and China's Institute of Oceanography to enhance collaboration in marine science and technology. Mr Wang announced that as part of post-pandemic opening up, China would welcome students from Bangladesh from Sunday onwards.

The Rohingya refugee crisis featured during the talks that Mr. Wang held with Mr. Momen and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Sunday.

"Myanmar is a difficult country. We are sincerely working to resolve the crisis and will continue our efforts in the future," Agriculture Minister Muhammad Abdur Razzaque quoted Mr. Wang as saying.

Nine children among 17 killed in Gaza

Egypt proposes deal to end fighting

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
GAZA/JERUSALEM

Nine children were among 17 Palestinians killed on Sunday in Gaza, health officials in the enclave said, amid talks of a truce after three days of intense fighting between Palestinian militants and Israel.

An Egyptian-proposed ceasefire had raised hopes that Cairo could help broker a deal to end the worst fighting in Gaza since an 11-day war last year devastated the Palestinian coastal territory.

But Gaza's Health Ministry announced 10 more deaths late on Sunday, among them nine children, raising the toll to 41 since fighting began on Friday.

The Ministry said more than 300 people have been wounded in Gaza, which is run by the Islamist group Hamas.

Two Israelis have been injured by shrapnel over the same period, medics reported.

Earlier in the day, an Egyptian security source said that Israel "has accepted" a ceasefire, adding that Cairo was waiting for the Palestinian response.

But a spokesman for Islamic Jihad – an Iran-backed group designated as a terrorist organisation by several Western nations – said "there is no agreement" yet.

Since Friday, Israel has carried out heavy aerial and artillery bombardment of Islamic Jihad positions in Gaza, with the militants firing hundreds of rockets in retaliation.

Islamic Jihad extended its barrage on Sunday to fire two rockets targeting Jerusalem, but they were shot down by the Israeli army.

IAEA raises alarm over strikes at nuclear plant in Ukraine

REUTERS
KYIV

The head of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) raised grave concern about shelling at a nuclear power plant in Ukraine, as its military said Russian forces had attacked dozens of front-line towns.

The fighting over the Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant in the south, captured by Russian forces in the opening stage of the war but still run by Ukrainian technicians, has raised the prospect of a wider disaster.

"I'm extremely concerned by the shelling yesterday at Europe's largest nuclear power plant, which underlines the very real risk of a nuclear disaster," IAEA Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi said in a statement.

Both sides have accused each other of engaging in "nuclear terrorism".

The United States has accused Russia of using it as a "nuclear shield".

SPORT

Rajini and Jagan bounce back with superb wins

Zubair notches up an impressive victory after starting 21st on the grid; Ann Jennifer tops girls' (Stock 165cc) class

MOTORSPORTS

SPORTS REPORTER
CHENNAI

Veterans Rajini Krishnan (RACR Castrol Power1) and Jagan Kumar (Petronas TVS Racing) bounced back in style with superb victories to provide a fitting climax to the third round of the MRF MMSC FMSCI Indian National Motorcycle Racing Championship 2022 at the Madras International Circuit, here on Sunday.

Also notching impressive wins on the day were Md. Samrul Zubair (Race'ists Motorcycle Club) in the Novice (Stock 165) category after starting 21st on the grid and local rider, Ann Jennifer (Alpha Racing), the former champion, in the girls' (Stock 165cc) class.

Handy win

Rajini, chasing his 11th National title, shrugged off a third place finish on Saturday to win handily in the premier Pro-Stock 301-400cc Open category to stretch his championship lead to 51 points.

In contrast, last year's champion Jagan Kumar, who missed the previous round owing to a wrist injury he suffered in the Rolon Round at Coimbatore in June and still nursing a painful right wrist, recorded his first win of the season in the other premier category, the Pro-Stock 165cc Open, to end a drought that stretched to 10 months and 12 races.

Fitting climax: Rajini extended his championship lead while Jagan's first win of the season came after 10 months and 12 races. •SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The results (provisional, 6 laps unless mentioned):

National Championship — Pro-Stock 301-400cc Open (Race-2, 8 laps): 1. Rajini Krishnan (RACR Castrol Power1) (15mins, 09.788secs); 2. Deepak Ravikumar (Petronas TVS Racing) (15:10.049); 3. K.Y. Ahamed (Petronas TVS Racing) (15:11.842).

Pro-Stock 165cc Open (Race-2, 8 laps): 1. Jagan Kumar (Petronas TVS Racing) (15:50.649); 2. Prabhu Arunagiri (Pacer Yamaha) (15:50.794); 3. K.Y. Ahamed (Petronas TVS Racing) (15:51.092).

Novice (Stock 165cc, Race-2): 1. Md Samrul Zubair (Race'ists Motorcycle Club) (13:06.841); 2. Kayan Zubin Patel (Axor Sparks Racing) (13:07.254); 3. Chiranth Vishwanath (Rookies Racing) (13:08.310).

Girls (Stock 165cc, 5 laps): 1. Ann Jennifer (Alpha Racing) (11:00.636); 2. Jagathishree (Pacer Yamaha) (11:02.138); 3. Jagruti Penkar (Axor Sparks Racing) (11:09.459).

Idemitsu Honda India Talent Cup — NSF 250 Open (Race-2, 10 laps): 1. Sarthak Shrikant Chavan (18:19.395); 2. Kavin Quintal (18:41.408); 3. Shyam Sundar (18:45.910).

Novice (CBR 150, Race-2): 1. Raheesh Mudassar Khatri (12:49.567); 2. Rajender Beedani (12:49.849); 3. Harshith Bogar (13:01.044).

Support Race — Hornet 2.0 (Race-2): 1. Allwin Xavier (13:23.706); 2. Sudheer Sudhakar (13:25.265); 3. G. Balaji (13:25.293).

Petronas TVS One-Make Championship — Open (Apache RR310, Race-1): 1. Alwin Sundar (11:45.653); 2. Rahil Pillarisetty (11:45.659); 3. P. Anantharaj (11:47.459).

Race-2: 1. Rahil (11:40.643); 2. N. Jagadeesh (11:40.661); 3. P. Ananthraj (11:42.608).

Rookie (Apache RTR 200, Race-2): 1. Chiranth Vishwanath (12:30.498); 2. Shreyas Hareesh (12:40.139); 3. Abdul Basim (12:40.250).

Media (Apache RTR 200, 5 laps): 1. Karan Singh (11:53.563); 2. Ishan Lee (11:54.038); 3. Mandar Sheela Sawant (11:57.498).

Not a bright start for Manchester United

Brentford draws at Leicester

EURO LEAGUES

REUTERS
MANCHESTER

The Erik ten Hag era at Manchester United began with a 2-1 Premier League defeat at home to Brighton on Sunday.

Brighton took the lead on the half-hour with Leandro Trossard finding former United forward Danny Welbeck, who squared the ball to the back post for Pascal Gross to slot home.

Lead doubled

Nine minutes later, Gross doubled the lead, with his sixth career goal against United, after David De Gea had poorly pushed out a Solly March drive right into the path of the German, who again made no mistake.

Ten Hag introduced Cristiano Ronaldo in the 53rd minute and the Portugal forward provided the spark for United's attempted comeback. The home side gave itself a foothold in the 68th minute when a goalmouth scramble ended with Alexis Mac Allister turning the ball into his own net but Brighton held on.

Substitute Josh Dasilva scored a superb equaliser with four minutes remaining as Brentford came from two goals down to draw 2-2 with Leicester City.

The results: Premier League: Leicester City 2 (Castagne 33, Dewsbury-Hall 46) drew with Brentford 2 (Toney 62, Dasilva 86); Manchester United 1 (Mac Allister 68-og) lost to Brighton 2 (Gross 30, 39).

On Saturday: Premier League: Everton 0 lost to Chelsea 1 (Jorginho 45+9-pen).

Bundesliga: Borussia Dortmund 1 (Reus 10) bt Bayer Leverkusen 0.

RACING

Artemis Ignacia claims feature event

HYDERABAD: Trainer Neil Darashah's Artemis Ignacia, ridden by P.S. Chouhan, won the K. Mahipathi Rao Memorial Golconda Juvenile Million, the feature event of Sunday's (Aug. 7) races here.

The winner is owned by Mr. Balasubramanya R & Mr. Lohith Anand.

1. NIZAM SAGAR PLATE (1,100m), rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III): **AMBITIOUS STAR** (R.S. Jodha) 1, Costello (A.A. Vikrant) 2, Silk (G. Naresh) 3 and Exclusive Spark (Md. Ismail) 4. 1/2, 3-3/4 and 1/2. Im 7.22s. ₹41 (w), 16, 10 and 17 (p). SHP: 27, THP: 56, SHW: 35 and 11, FP: 84, Q: 33, Tanala: 284. Favourite: Costello.

Owner: M.A.M. Ramaswamy Chettiar Of Chettinad Charitable Trust. Trainer: K. Satheesh.

2. ASCOT PLATE (1,200m), (Terms) Maiden, 3-y-o only (Cat. II): **MALIBU** (Akshay Kumar) 1, Clefairy (P. Sai Kumar) 2, Hugh Capet (D.S. Deora) 3 and Ivanhoe (P.S. Chouhan) 4. Not run: Raniji. 2-1/4, 2-1/2 and 1-1/2. 1m 15.90s. ₹27 (w), 13, 12 and 71 (p). SHP: 33, THP: 251, SHW: 15 and 15, FP: 65, Q: 32, Tanala: 2,678. Favourite: Clefairy.

Owner: Mr. M. Ramakrishna Reddy. Trainer: L.D' Silva.

3. BASARA CUP (1,800m), rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III): **WALLOP AND GALLOP** (P. Ajeeth Kumar) 1, Advance Guard (Akshay Kumar) 2, Yesterday (P.S. Chouhan) 3 and New Hustle (B. Nikhil) 4. 2-1/2, 1 and 3/4. 1m 56.52s. ₹101 (w), 22, 13 and 12 (p). SHP: 34, THP: 52, SHW: 42 and 18, FP: 360, Q: 185, Tanala: 878. Favourite: Grand Duke.

Owner: Mr. Syed Nawaz Hussain. Trainer: Ananta Vatsalya.

4. JANGAON PLATE (1,200m), rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III): **BEAUTY BLAZE** (B. Nikhil) 1, Briar Ridge (Santosh Raj) 2, Arabian Queen (Akshay Kumar) 3 and N R I Millennium (Mukesh Kumar) 4. 8-1/2, 2 and 3/4. 1m 14.29s. ₹23 (w), 14, 72 and 12 (p). SHP: 431, THP: 53, SHW: 16 and 216, FP: 1,575, Q: 1,278, Tanala: 2,922. Favourite: Arabian Queen.

Owner: Mr. Md. Kashif Ali Khan. Trainer: N. Ravinder Singh.

5. K. MAHIPATHI RAO MEMORIAL GOLCONDA JUVENILE MILLION (1,400m) (Terms), 3-y-o only: **ARTEMIS IGNACIA** (P.S. Chouhan) 1, Ashoka (A.A. Vikrant) 2, Crown Consort (Suraj Narredu) 3 and The Image (Akshay Kumar) 4. 3/4, 1-1/2 and 1-1/4. 1m 27.96s. ₹51 (w), 25 and 18 (p). SHP: 43, THP: 52, SHW: 20 and 28, FP: 302, Q: 176, Tanala: 678. Favourite: Crown Consort.

Owners: Mr. Balasubramanya R & Mr. Lohith Anand. Trainer: Neil Darashah.

6. WWW.HYDRACES.COM CUP (1,200m), rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II): **BY THE BAY** (Suraj Narredu) 1, Able Love (Afroz Khan) 2, DRD (P. Ajeeth Kumar) 3 and Rising Queen (Md. Ismail) 4. Nk, 1/2 and Nk. 1m 14.86s. ₹28 (w), 12, 39 and 20 (p). SHP: 135, THP: 66, SHW: 19 and 50, FP: 474, Q: 355, Tanala: 4,541. Favourite: Miss Little Angel.

Owner: Mr. Teja Gollapudi. Trainer: Laxman Singh.

7. BROWN JACK PLATE (DIV. II) (1,400m), 4-y-o & upward, rated upto 25 (Cat. III): **PEDRO PLANET** (Mukesh Kumar) 1, Cash Register (P.S. Chouhan) 2, That's My Way (Afroz Khan) 3 and Akash (A.A. Vikrant) 4. Not run: Astronaut. 2-3/4, 3 and 3. 1m 30.33s. ₹49 (w), 17, 16 and 26 (p). SHP: 36, THP: 59, SHW: 19 and 21, FP: 122, Q: 53, Tanala: 1,037. Favourite: Akash.

Owner: Ms. Meka Ahalya & Mrs. Rajini Meka. Trainer: L.D'Silva.

Jackpot: 70%: ₹36,253 (11 tkts.), 30%: 2,341 (73 tkts.).

Mini Jackpot: (i) 2,345 (28 tkts.), (ii) 2,138 (72 tkts.).

Treble: (i) 882 (59 tkts.), (ii) 886 (106 tkts.).

Smashing Blue for Mica Emperor Plate

HYDERABAD: Trainer R.H. Sequeira's Smashing Blue, who is in good shape, should win the class I Mica Emperor Plate, the chief event of Monday's (Aug. 8) races.

1 BAKHTAWAR PLATE (1,600m), (Terms) Maiden, 3-y-o only (Cat. II) – 1.30 p.m.: 1. Divine Destiny (3) Kiran Naidu 56, 2. Hero Of The East (10) Abhay Singh 56, 3. My Pleasure (6) R.S. Jodha 56, 4. Rovaniemi (4) P. Vikram 56, 5. Carnival Lady (7) B. Nikhil 54.5, 6. Ella Eldingar (2) Kuldeep Singh 54.5, 7. Speaking Of Love (5) Akshay Kumar 54.5, 8. Swiss Girl (9) Suraj Narredu 54.5, 9. Voice Of A Dream (1) Ajeeth Kumar 54.5 and 10. White Roses (8) P.S. Chouhan 54.5.

1. SPEAKING OF LOVE, 2. WHITE ROSES, 3. SWISS GIRL

2 BHUPALPALLY PLATE (DIV. I) (1,200m), 4-y-o & upward, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III) – 2.00: 1. Siyavash (11) Abhay Singh 60, 2. Hot Seat (4) Khurshad Alam 58, 3. Salisbury (2) Afroz Khan 57.5, 4. Bedford (9) P. Sai Kumar 57, 5. Dharasana (6) Gaurav Singh 56.5, 6. Laurus (5) Akshay Kumar 56.5, 7. Blue Label (3) Nakhat Singh 54.5, 8. Exotic Dancer (1) Suraj Narredu 53.5, 9. Above The Law (8) Md. Ismail 52, 10. I Am Superman (7) D.S. Deora 52 and 11. Star Cruise (10) B.R. Kumar 51.

1. EXOTIC DANCER, 2. LAURUS, 3. I AM SUPERMAN

3 SHAMIRPET CUP (1,400m), rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III) – 2.35: 1. Isra (8) Aneel 60, 2. Nugget (9) P.S. Chouhan 58, 3. The Akhanda (7) Abhay Singh 58, 4. Philanthropist (6) Mukesh Kumar 57.5, 5. Indian Temple (1) Mohit Singh 56.5, 6. Wot's Up Jay (5) P. Gaddam 55, 7. Archangels (4) A.A. Vikrant 54.5, 8. Muaser (3) Nakhat Singh 54.5, 9. Lightning Fairy (10) Ajeeth Kumar 54 and 10. Exclusive Luck (2) Md. Ismail 51.5.

1. NUGGET, 2. ARCHANGELS, 3. THE AKHANDA

4 BHUPALPALLY PLATE (DIV. II) (1,200m), 4-y-o & upward, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III) – 3.10: 1. Mind Reader (7) R.S. Jodha 60, 2. Malaala (10) Mukesh Kumar 59.5, 3. Top Diamond (8) Santosh Raj 58.5, 4. Pinatubo (3) Mohit Singh 58, 5. Paladino (5) Afroz Khan 57.5, 6. Ok Boss (6) Akshay Kumar 55.5, 7. Flamingo Fame (1) Kiran Naidu 54.5, 8. Visionary (9) P.S. Chouhan 53.5, 9. Blazing Jupiter (2) Kuldeep Singh 53 and 10. My Master (4) Nakhat Singh 52.5.

1. MALAALA, 2. VISIONARY, 3. OK BOSS

5 B. MARIDESHWARA RAO MEMORIAL CUP (1,800m), rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II) – 3.45: 1. Fire Power (7) P.S. Chouhan 60, 2. Ashwa Raudee (4) Mukesh Kumar 59, 3. Akido (5) Kuldeep Singh 58, 4. Francis Bacon (3) Ajeeth Kumar 56, 5. Just Incredible (6) Aneel 54.5, 6. True Icon (1) Gaurav Singh 52 and 7. Bold Bidding (2) Akshay Kumar 51.

1. FIRE POWER, 2. AKIDO

6 MICA EMPEROR PLATE (1,200m), rated 80 and above (Cat. I) – 4.20: 1. Smashing Blue (3) Abhay Singh 64.5, 2. Hartnell (2) Mohit Singh 63, 3. Lagos (5) Suraj Narredu 56, 4. Top Secret (6) D.S. Deora 53, 5. Wakeful (4) Gaurav Singh 53, 6. Premier Action (1) Afroz Khan 50, 7. Scramjet (7) P. Sai Kumar 50 and 8. Skipton (8) P. Vikram 50.

1. SMASHING BLUE, 2. LAGOS, 3. SCRAMJET

7 BROWN JACK PLATE (DIV. I) (1,400m), 4-y-o & upward, rated upto 25 (Cat. III) – 4.55: 1. Aiza (1) Aneel 61.5, 2. Challenger (9) R.S. Jodha 61.5, 3. Hip Hop (3) Nakhat Singh 61.5, 4. Reining Queen (2) Deepak Singh 61.5, 5. Space Time (5) Kiran Naidu 61, 6. Horse O' War (6) G. Naresh 60.5, 7. Viggen (7) Kuldeep Singh 59, 8. Arba Wahed Arba (10) Ajeeth Kumar 58.5, 9. Amalfitana (4) P.S. Chouhan 56.5, 10. Tales Of A Legend (11) P. Sai Kumar 55.5 and 11. Cephalonia (8) B. Nikhil 51.5.

1. CHALLENGER, 2. AMALFITANA, 3. HIP HOP

Day's Best: **FIRE POWER**

Jackpot: 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7.

Mini Jackpot: (i) 1, 2, 3 & 4. (ii) 4, 5, 6 & 7.

Treble: (i) 2, 3 & 4. (ii) 5, 6 & 7.

Tanala: All races.

MRG-BGE

Eldhose and Aboobacker make it a 1-2 for India in triple jump

Praveen almost makes it a sweep before finishing fourth; bronze medals for Annu Rani in javelin and Sandeep Kumar in 10,000m race-walk

SANTADEEP DEY
BIRMINGHAM

Eldhose Paul had two firsts in one go at the Alexander Stadium here on Sunday. The triple jumper won the Commonwealth Games gold, the first by an Indian in the event's history, and he did it by crossing the 17m mark for the first time.

What's more, his close friend Abdulla Aboobacker, won the silver. Eldhose registered a jump of 17.03m on his third attempt. "It feels fantastic. Finally, I got my rhythm right and the perfect jump at an international competition," said the 25-year-old.

Eldhose, who had a personal best of 16.99m set at the Federation Cup in April, had a nervous start. He stumbled and lost momentum on his first jump – a mere 14.62m. For a while, the prospect of an Indian sweep in the triple jump looked possible. Praveen Chithravel, the third Indian in the fray, was very much in the mix.

Aboobacker had a best of 17.02m while Praveen finished fourth with 16.89m. Bermuda's Jah-Nhai Perinchief took the bronze with 16.92m.

In women's javelin, Annu Rani registered exactly 60m to take home a bronze on August 7, a day named the 'National Javelin Day' by the Athletics Federation of India to celebrate Neeraj Chopra's historic gold medal at the Tokyo Olympics.

Annu is the first Indian woman javelin thrower to win a Commonwealth Games medal. Australia's Kelsey Lee-Barber (64.43m) and Mackenzie Little (64.27m) took the gold and silver.

In the men's 10,000m race-walk, Sandeep Kumar recorded a personal best of 38:49.21s to win the bronze. Canada's Evan Dunfee (38:36.37) won gold, while Australia's Declan Tingay finished second (38:42.33).

Sandeep, who led the pack in the first 1,000m, dropped to third by the 3,000m. Although he came back to lead the field again over the next 2,000m, he was overtaken.

Proud Indians: Eldhose, left, and Aboobacker after the triple jump show, Annu goes for the javelin bronze while Sandeep brings home the 10000m race-walk bronze. •AP

Nikhat, Nitu and Panghal deliver the golden punch

The three boxers brook no resistance during their summit clashes

SANTADEEP DEY
BIRMINGHAM

Away in the UK fighting for India, world champion Nikhat Zareen missed her mother's birthday on August 3. Nikhat took care of business that day, winning in the Commonwealth Games boxing quarterfinals at the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham. Having missed the birthday celebration, Nikhat made up her mind to compensate for her absence by handing the 'best gift' to her mother, Parveen Sultana.

She bagged the gift on Sunday. "I don't think anything will make her happier than this," Nikhat said, pointing to the gold she won after winning the 50kg light fly final 5-0 against Northern Ireland's Carly McNaul.

Nikhat's colourful nails caught the eye in her moment of glory. They were painted in the colours of the Indian national flag, complete with the Ashoka Chakra. What's more, two of those had gold medal painted on them.

"It kept reminding me what I had to get for my mother from the UK. I got them done before my first bout," said Nikhat. Her win gave India its sixth boxing medal of the Games. Earlier on Sunday, Nitu Ghanghas opened India's boxing gold medal count after beating England's Demie-Jade Resztan by unanimous decision in the women's minimumweight final.

The 21-year-old, featuring in her first Commonwealth Games, was named in the squad after winning the national trials in June. Incidentally, Indian boxing icon Mary Kom was injured in the trials during her bout with Nitu.

Amit Panghal delivered the second boxing gold of the day, beating England's Kiaran MacDonald to win his first CWG gold medal.

Golden trio: Nikhat, Panghal and Nitu made it a special day for India. •PTI

INDIANS' JOURNEY

Athletics (final): Men: Triple jump: Eldhose Paul (gold), Abdulla Aboobacker (silver), Praveen Chithravel (4th); 10,000m race walk: Sandeep Kumar (bronze), Amit (9th); 5000m: Avinash Sable (DNF). Women: Javelin: Annu Rani (bronze), Shilpa Rani (7th); 4x100m relay: Fifth; Hammer: Manju Bala (12th).

Badminton: Women (semi-finals): P.V. Sindhu bt Jia Min Yeo (Sgp) 2-0; Doubles: Treesa/Gayatri lost to Tan/Thinaah (Mas) 0-2; Men: Bronze medal match: K. Srikanth bt Jia Heng Teh (Sgp) 2-0; Semifinals: Lakshya Sen bt Teh 2-1, Srikanth lost to Tze Yong Ng (Mas) 1-2; Doubles: Satwiksairaj/Chirag bt Chan/Tan (Mas) 2-0.

Boxing: Final: Men: Flyweight: Amit Panghal bt Kiaran MacDonald (Eng), wins gold. Women: Minimumweight: Nitu Ganghas bt Demie-Jade Resztan (Eng), wins gold; Light flyweight: Nikhat Zareen bt Carly McNaul (NIR), wins gold; Semifinals: Men: Welterweight: Rohit Tokas lost to Stephen Zimba (Zam), bags bronze; Super heavyweight: Sagar bt Ifeanyi Onyekwere (Ngr).

Cricket: Women (gold medal match): lost to Australia by nine runs.

Hockey: Women (bronze medal match): bt New Zealand 2-1 in shootout (FT: 1-1).

Para table tennis: Women's singles classes 3-5: Bhavina Patel bt Christiana Ifechukwude (Ngr) 3-0, wins gold; Sonalben Patel bt Sue Bailey (Eng) 3-0, bags bronze.

Squash: Mixed doubles (bronze medal match): Dipika/Saurav bt Lobban/Pilley (Aus) 2-0.

Table tennis: Men: Singles (semifinals): Sharath Kamal bt Paul Drinkhall (Eng) 4-2; Sathiyan lost to Liam Pitchford (Eng) 1-4; Doubles (gold medal match): Sharath/Sathiyan lost to Drinkhall/Pitchford (Eng) 2-3.

Women: Singles (bronze medal match): Sreeja Akula lost to Yangzi Liu (Aus) 3-4.

Nation's pride: Para paddlers Bhavina and Sonalben celebrate on the podium. •PTI

Gold for Sharath-Sreeja

Sreeja misses bronze by a whisker

AMOL KARHADKAR

A. Sharath Kamal and Sreeja Akula gave India its first-ever Commonwealth Games mixed doubles gold by overcoming the Malaysian pair of Javen Choong and Karen Lyne on Sunday.

Sharath and Sreeja capped their scintillating run with a 11-4, 9-11, 11-5, 11-6 win over Choong and Lyne, who had ousted favourites G. Sathiyan and Manika Batra in the final.

Sharath had earlier made it to the men's singles final and lost in the men's doubles final with partner Sathiyan.

For Sreeja, it was a memorable week. Having lost the singles bronze medal playoff, she overcame the disappointment and starred in the summit clash with powerful forehand winners.

Sharath, having played two matches earlier in the day, was happy to let Sreeja take centrestage and chipped in consistently against a relatively inexperienced Malaysian pair.

Earlier in the evening, while Sharath ousted England's Paul Drinkhall in six hard-fought games in the men's singles semifinal, Sathiyan stumbled against England No. 1 Liam Pitchford, who proved too quick for the Indian.

Perfect pair: Sreeja and Sharath combined well to beat giant-killers Choong and Lyne in the final. •PTI

Sindhu, Lakshya in finals

The final hurdle: Satwik and Chirag ensured a third gold medal match for India. •GETTY IMAGES

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BIRMINGHAM

Double Olympic medallist P.V. Sindhu stayed on course for an elusive gold medal while Lakshya Sen regained his rhythm just in time to enter his maiden final at the Commonwealth Games here on Sunday.

Sindhu rode on her technical superiority to outwit Singapore's Yeo Jia Min 21-19, 21-17 in a 49-minute contest to reach her second successive final.

In the following match, world No. 10 Sen lost his way after a dominating start against 87-ranked Jia Heng Teh of Singapore. Sen, however, recovered to complete a 21-10, 18-21, 21-16 win in the men's singles semifinals.

Satwik Sairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty ensured a third gold medal match for India on Monday when they downed Malaysia's Chen Peng Soon and Tian Kian Men 21-6, 21-15 to reach the men's doubles final. The World No. 7 duo was too good for the Malaysians.

It could have been an all-Indian men's final but an error-prone K. Srikanth squandered a first game advantage to lose to lower-ranked Tze Yong Ng of Malaysia 21-13, 19-21, 21-10.

Srikanth later clinched the bronze after defeating Jia Heng Teh of Singapore 21-15, 21-18.

The women's doubles pair of Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand lost to Malaysians of Thinnah Muralitharan and Pearly Koon Le Tan in the semifinals.

Heartbreak for India

Loses a thriller to Australia in final

SANTADEEP DEY
BIRMINGHAM

There couldn't have been a more fitting finale to the women's T20 cricket event of the Commonwealth Games.

For the Indian fans, an overwhelming majority in the crowd that turned up at the Edgbaston Stadium, it may have brought back unpleasant memories of the 2017 women's World Cup final between India and England when the Women In Blue shockingly went down to the host by nine runs at Lord's.

On Sunday, the margin of defeat was similar as skipper Harmanpreet Kaur's 65 (43b, 7x4, 2x6) went in vain against Australia. The Indian women had to settle for silver in their maiden CWG cricket campaign.

The toss, delayed over discussions surrounding Australia all-rounder Tahlia McGrath's inclusion in the XI even though she tested positive for COVID-19, saw Meg Lanning opt to bat.

Meg Lanning (36, 26b, 5x4, 6x1) and Beth Mooney (61, 41b, 8x4) added 74 in 47 balls, the best of the Australian innings, as the team finished with 161 for eight in 20 overs.

In reply, India opener Shafali Verma got off the blocks early with two fours in the first over bowled by Megan Schutt. It was an outing to forget for Smriti Mandhana, who ended up shuffling across a tad too much towards the off stump and getting bowled.

The moment of the match came when McGrath, after taking Shafali's catch, asked her teammates who had forgotten all about her COVID-19 diagnosis to stay away from her and celebrate.

Harmanpreet and Jemimah did their best but fell in quick succession. The Aussies kept their nerve even the Indians lost theirs.

The scores: Australia 161/8 in 20 overs (Beth Mooney 61, Meg Lanning 36, Renuka Singh 2/25, Sneh Rana 2/38) bt India 152 in 19.3 overs (Harmanpreet Kaur 65, Jemimah Rodrigues 33, Gardner 3/16, Megan Schutt 2/27).

Savita stars as India women land bronze

PRESSTRUST OF INDIA
BIRMINGHAM

Skipper Savita Punia led from the front as the Indian women's hockey team defeated New Zealand 2-1 in a shoot-out and won the bronze at the Commonwealth Games here on Sunday. This is the team's first medal at the CWG in 16 years.

Leading 1-0, India conceded a penalty corner with less than 30 seconds to go for the final hooter, and the match went into the shoot-out after Olivia Merry's equaliser.

In the regulation time, India took the lead through Salima Tete in the 29th minute. In the shoot-out, Savita pulled off three spectacular saves to give her side its third CWG medal.

After Megan Hull put New Zealand ahead, an agile Savita denied Rose Tynan, Katie Doar and Olivia Shanon, while Sonika and Navneet scored for India.

The Indians came out attacking and made plenty of circle penetrations but failed to break through. But, it was New Zealand that came close to taking the lead in the first quarter, in the form of a penalty corner which was well defended by the Indians.

Beat me if you can! Savita thwarts Olivia Shannon's effort in the shoot-out. •GETTY IMAGES

Shreyas and spinners fashion India's thumping win

Bishnoi, Axar and Kuldeep share the spoils as Men in Blue outplay West Indies 4-1

INDIA IN WI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LAUDERHILL

Shreyas Iyer roared back to form with a stroke-filled 64 while the spinners picked up all the 10 wickets as India recorded yet another one-sided 88-run victory over West Indies to wrap up the five-match T20I series by a comprehensive 4-1 margin here.

It was Shreyas' half-century and useful contributions from Deepak Hooda (38, 25b, 3x4, 2x6) and stand-in skipper Hardik Pandya's (28, 16b, 2x4, 2x6) cameo that propelled India to 188 for seven in 20 overs after being put in to bat.

Then, Hardik handed the new ball to Axar Patel (3-1-15-3), who quickly removed makeshift opener Jason Holder (0), Shamarah Brooks (13) and Devon Thomas (10) with three arm balls on a track where balls stopped and gripped off the surface to pose problems.

West Indies was all out for 100 runs inside 16 overs as one of the most lopsided T20I bilateral series came to an end even though India won't be complaining, having ticked most of the boxes.

Spinners' day out

Kuldeep Yadav (4-1-12-3) and Ravi Bishnoi (2.4-0-16-4) also got into the act as India's spin troika varied their lengths and pace with ease to keep the Windies batters on tenterhooks.

Finding his range: Shreyas produced a knock of substance in the final game. •AFP

SCOREBOARD

INDIA

Ishan Kishan c Pooran b Drakes 11 *(13b, 1x4)*, Shreyas Iyer c & b Holder 64 *(40b, 8x4, 2x6)*, Deepak Hooda c Brooks b Walsh 38 *(25b, 3x4, 2x6)*, Sanju Samson b Smith 15 *(11b, 2x4)*, Hardik Pandya run out 28 *(16b, 2x4, 2x6)*, Dinesh Karthik lbw b Smith 12 *(9b, 2x4)*, Axar Patel c Pooran b Smith 9 *(7b, 1x6)*, Kuldeep Yadav (not out) 0 *(0b)*, Avesh Khan (not out) 1 *(2b)*; (Extras (nb-3, w-7): 10; Total (for seven wkts. in 20 overs): 188.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-38 (Kishan, 4.3 overs), 2-114 (Hooda, 11.4), 3-122 (Shreyas, 12.6), 4-142 (Samson, 15.2), 5-158 (Karthik, 17.2), 6-181 (Hardik, 19.1), 7-187 (Axar, 19.4).

WEST INDIES BOWLING

Holder 4-0-38-1, McCoy 2-0-27-0, Drakes 3-0-24-1, Paul 2-0-24-0, Walsh 4-0-33-1, Smith 4-0-33-3, Powell 1-0-9-0.

WEST INDIES

Jason Holder b Axar 0 *(3b)*, Shamarh Brooks st. Karthik b Axar 13 *(13b, 2x4)*, Devon Thomas b Axar 10 *(11b, 2x4)*, Shimron Hetmyer c Shreyas b Bishnoi 56 *(35b, 5x4, 4x6)*, Nicholas Pooran lbw b Kuldeep 3 *(6b)*, Rovman Powell lbw b Bishnoi 9 *(13b, 1x4)*, Keemo Paul lbw b Bishnoi 0 *(1b)*, Dominic Drakes b Kuldeep 1 *(2b)*, Odean Smith c Hardik b Kuldeep 0 *(3b)*, Hayden Walsh (not out) 0 *(4b)*, Obed McCoy c Hooda b Bishnoi 0 *(3b)*; Extras (w-8): 8; Total (in 15.4 overs): 100.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-0 (Holder, 0.3), 2-24 (Brooks, 4.2), 3-33 (Thomas, 4.6), 4-50 (Pooran, 7.5), 5-83 (Powell, 11.3), 6-88 (Paul, 11.4), 7-89 (Drakes, 12.1), 8-89 (Smith, 12.4), 9-100 (Hetmyer, 15.1).

INDIA BOWLING

Axar 3-1-15-3, Arshdeep 2-0-18-0, Avesh 2-0-20-0, Hardik 2-0-19-0, Kuldeep 4-1-12-3, Bishnoi 2.4-0-16-4.

Toss: India.

India won by 88 runs and clinched the five-match series 4-1.

Poland women stun India 1; Pragg saves India 2

Uzbekistan crushes Armenia for lead in Open category; India 1, three others ahead in women's section

RAKESH RAO
MAMALLAPURAM

In Swiss league format, like the one used in the Chess Olympiad here, it is universally accepted that the performances of the last three rounds hugely influence a team's eventual standing.

On that count, the Indian medal prospects suffered a setback in both sections in the ninth round but the possibility of a historic twin podium-finish remained.

Cool customer: Praggnanandhaa rose to the occasion and notched up a win to hand India 2 a valuable draw against Azerbaijan. • B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

Bright side

On the brighter side, four Indian teams emerged victorious on Sunday.

Before a crowded house, R. Praggnanandhaa saved the day for the much-followed India 2 against Azerbaijan by clinching a must-win game after Raunak Sadhwani's loss saw the host trail by a point. After D. Gukesh's eight-game winning sequence ended with a draw and Nihal Sarin signed peace, Praggnanandhaa showed his endgame prowess to make it 2-2.

Uzbekistan (16 match-points), which held top seed USA last week, ended overnight leader Armenia's undefeated run with a 3-1 score, with victories on the two lower boards to emerge as the front-runner, with two rounds to go. India 2 and Armenia share the second spot with 15 points.

If Praggnanandhaa pulled off a win to save India, his sister R. Vaishali required a draw to salvage a point for India 1. But that was not to be.

As India 1 faced a formidable Poland, Vaishali became Oliwia Kiobasa's ninth successive victim in the competition. The lone decisive battle proved crucial since K. Humpy, D. Harika and Tania Sachdev were involved in drawn games.

Defeat for India 1 and the drawn encounter between Ukraine and Georgia, seeded two and three, saw Kazakhstan quietly join the leaders at 15 points after drubbing Bulgaria 3-1.

The results (Ninth round, with match-points):

Open: India 2 (15) drew with Azerbaijan (14) 2-2 (D. Gukesh drew with Shakhriyar Mamedyarov; Nihal Sarin drew with Rauf Mamedov; R. Praggnanandhaa bt Vasif Durarbayli; Raunak Sadhwani lost to Nijat Abasov).

India 1 (14) bt Brazil (12) 3-1 (P. Harikrishna drew with Luis Supi; Vidit Gujrathi drew with Alexandr Fier; Arjun Erigaisi bt Krikov Sevag Mekhitarian; K. Sasikiran bt Andre Diamant).

Paraguay (10) lost to India 3 (12) 1-3 (Axel Bachman bt Surya Shekhar Ganguly; Neuris Delgado Ramirez lost to S.P. Sethuraman; Jose Fernando Cubas lost to M. Karthikeyan; Ruben Zacarias lost to Abhimanyu Puranik).

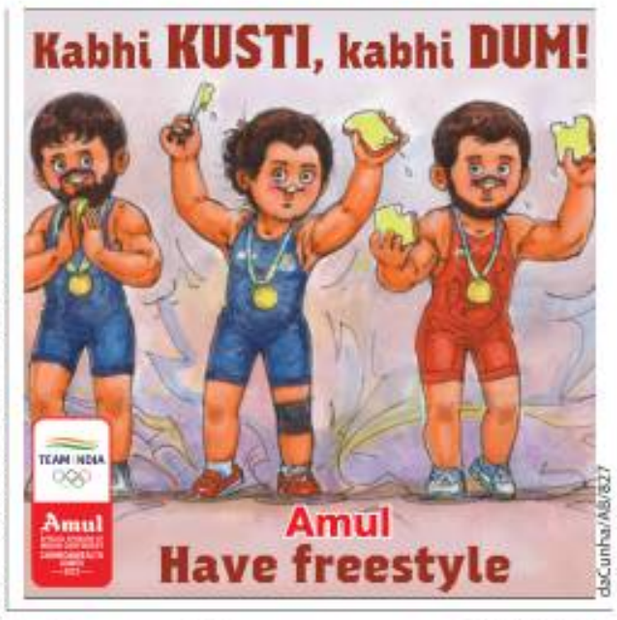
Uzbekistan (16) bt Armenia (15) 3-1; Netherlands (14) drew with Iran (14) 2-2; Greece (12) lost to USA (14) 1.5-2.5; Lithuania (13) drew with Germany (13) 2-2; Turkey (14) bt Peru (12) 2.5-1.5; Kazakhstan (12) lost to Serbia (14) 1-3; Denmark (11) lost to Spain (13) 1-3; Australia (11) lost to Ukraine (13) 1.5-2.5.

Women: Poland (15) bt India 1 (15) 2.5-1.5 (Alina Kashlinskaya drew with K. Humpy; Monica Socko drew with D. Harika; Oliwia Kiolbasa bt R. Vaishali; Maria Malicka drew with Tania Sachdev).

India 2 (13) bt Switzerland (11) 4-0 (Vantika Agarwal bt Lena Goergescu; Padmini Rout bt Ghazal Hakimifard; Mary Ann Gomes bt Gundula Heinatz; Divya Deshmukh bt Camille de Seroux).

Estonia (11) lost to India 3 (13) 1-3 (Mai Narva drew with Eesha Karavade; Margareth Olde lost to P.V. Nandhidhaa; Anastassia Sinitsina lost to Varshini Sahithi; Sofia Blokhin drew with Vishwa Vasnawala).

Ukraine (14) drew with Georgia (15) 2-2; Bulgaria (13) lost to Kazakhstan (16) 1-3; Azerbaijan (14) bt Mongolia (13) 2.5-1.5; Germany (14) bt England (12) 3.5-0.5; Armenia (14) bt Romania (12) 3-1; Indonesia (14) bt Spain (12) 2.5-1.5; Sweden (13) drew with Netherlands (13) 2-2; Slovakia (13) bt France (11) 2.5-1.5; Greece (11) lost to USA (13) 0.5-3.5.



dsCunha/AB/8327

Anand becomes FIDE deputy president

SPORTS BUREAU

Grandmaster and five-time World Champion Viswanathan Anand has been elected as the deputy president of FIDE, the international chess body.

Russian and incumbent president Arkady Dvorkovich was re-elected FIDE president. Dvorkovic received 167 votes in his favour while opponent Andrii Baryshpolets got 16.

Anand was nominated by the incumbent president as part of his team to contest the elections.

Dvorkovich was first elected as FIDE president in October 2018, succeeding Kirsan Ilyumzhinov.

He has continued to enjoy support from the chess community despite being questioned by some due to his nationality and the fact that in the past he held important positions in the Russian government.

Draw a very good result for India 2

Praggnanandhaa's win could prove vital; Vaishali's loss a blow

VISWANATHAN ANAND

Finally, after this nightmare of exchanging blunders here and there, R. Praggnanandhaa won against Vasif Durarbayli of Azerbaijan. That meant a 2-2 result for India men's 2, which, given all the excitement today, is a very good result. I'll take the draw over a defeat and the heartbreak. It was tough for poor Raunak Sadhwani and for everyone. But it shows the expectations we now have from them and every little thing saved feels like a disappointment. So, let's keep that perspective in mind.

In the women's section, it's really a blow that R. Vaishali lost this endgame to Oliwia Koplbasa. At the beginning, it seemed like it should be a draw but then she slowly got outplayed and we lost the match.

India 1 (men) recovering is of course very good news. The thing is, it might not help them very much since Uzbekistan had such a good performance today, beating Armenia 3-1. So, Uzbekistan now leapfrogs everyone. They are such a strong team and had beaten Peru 4-0 and somebody told me what an incredible result that was.

The USA pulled together despite Levon Aronian losing on Board 2. With so much class in this team, they're always in with a chance to win the tournament.

K. Sasikiran and Arjun Erigaisi won to clinch it for India 1 and that's fantastic. I'm glad that S.P. Sethuraman and Karthikeyan Murali, too, were able to win and help India 3 in the open section.

Our women from India 2 and India 3 also had comfortable victories. But a tough day from our perspective and let's keep in mind that Uzbekistan and the USA are right back in it. So, the same could still happen to India 2 or even India 1. They are, by no means, out of it.

And Praggnanandhaa's win might even turn out to be crucial.

CASAGRAND
building aspirations

Pranav is India's 75th GM

P.K. AJITH KUMAR
MAMALLAPURAM

V. Pranav, the 16-year-old from Chennai became a Grandmaster after completing his final norm from the Limpedea Open. So India got its 75th GM with the country's 75th Independence Day just a week away.

He made his first norm from the Serbian Open last year and the second from the Vezerkepzo tournament at Budapest in June.

"Though it is disappointing that I have had to miss the Olympiad and not see my favourite player Magnus Carlsen in action, I am happy that I could complete my GM title," Pranav told *The Hindu* over phone from Baia Mare, Romania.

V. Pranav.

Bhullar wins title

JAKARTA

Golfer Gaganjeet Bhullar produced one of the best rounds of his career when he needed it most to end India's four-year long title drought on the Asian Tour. Bhullar shot a superb seven-under 65 to finish 20-under and win the $500,000 Mandiri Indonesia Open here on Sunday.

KAA's State athletics from August 26

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The Karnataka Athletics Association (KAA) will conduct the State junior & senior athletics meet from August 26 to 28 at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium here.

The meet will serve as a trial to select the State teams for the forthcoming South Zone Athletics Championship, Youth Athletics Championship, U23 National Athletics Championship and the Open National Senior Athletics Championship. Entries are to be submitted at *https://indianathletics.in/* on or before August 22.

The turf at the Kanteerava Stadium is currently being spruced up, with the Department of Youth Empowerment & Sports (DYES) indicating that it would take a fortnight to complete, in time for the State meet to be held.

Meanwhile, on Sunday, the KAA celebrated National Javelin Day – to commemorate Neeraj Chopra's Olympic Gold in Tokyo last year on August 7 – with a javelin competition and a kids' athletics meet.

DYES had asked the organisers to shift the field events to the adjacent 200m track as the main area within the 400m track was undergoing maintenance. Competitions were nonetheless held at the main stadium, with the KAA refusing to budge.

"There were no problems. Some security guards came and took photos but there has not been any communication from DYES.

" If asked, we will provide the necessary explanation," a KAA official present at the venue said.

LIVE TELECAST

CWG 2022: Sony Ten 2, 3, Six (SD & HD) & Sony LIV, 12.30 p.m.
KSCA Maharaja T20: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 3 p.m. & 7 p.m.
Chess Olympad 2022: FIDE & Chessbase India YouTube channels, 3 p.m. onwards
CWG 2022: Closing Ceremony, Sony Ten 2, 3, Six (SD & HD) & Sony LIV, 1 a.m. (Tuesday)

IN BRIEF

Raza stars for Zimbabwe

HARARE

Sikandar Raza scored an unbeaten 117 as Zimbabwe staged a great run chase for the second time in three days to beat Bangladesh by five wickets on Sunday and take a winning 2-0 lead in a three-match ODI series. The batter hit four sixes and eight fours off 127 deliveries.
The scores: Bangladesh 290/9 in 50 overs (Mohammad Mahmudullah 80, Tamim Iqbal 50, Afif Hossain 41; Sikandar Raza 3/56) lost to Zimbabwe 291/5 in 47.3 overs (Sikandar Raza 117 n.o., Regis Chakabva 102 n.o.) .

Bopanna loses in doubles; Yuki, Saketh duo wins title

WASHINGTON

Rohan Bopanna and Matwe Middelkoop was beaten 7-5, 6-3 by fourth seeds Ivan Dodig and Austin Krajicek in the doubles semifinals of the $2,108,110 ATP tennis tournament in Washington. In the Challenger in Lexington, US, second seeds Yuki Bhambri and Saketh Myneni won the doubles title, defeating Gijs Brouwer and Aidan McHugh 3-6, 6-4, [10-8] in the final.

Samarth guides Mangalore United to win

Mysuru Warriors defeat Shivamogga Strikers easily

CORRESPONDENT
MYSURU

Mangalore United, helped by a skipper's knock of 52 n.o., R. Samarth, registered a facile eight-wicket win over Hubli Tigers in a rain-hit inaugural match in the Maharaja Trophy KSCA T20 cricket tournament played at the SDNRW grounds here on Sunday.

Set a revised target of 112 runs to get in 18 overs, after a short spell of rain interrupted the match, Mangalore United started shakily losing opener Macneil Noronha (6). Samarth. (52 n.o., 41b, 6x4, 2x6), added 67 runs for the second wicket with S.J. Nikin Jose (23, 29b, 2x4) and steadied the innings.

Samarth and Abhinav Manohar (14 n.o) with an unbroken third-wicket stand of 38 saw their team through in the 16th over. Earlier, put in, Hubli Tigers scored 119 for nine in 20 overs.

The tournament was inaugurated by Promoda Devi Wadayar.

The scores: Hubli Tigers 119/9 in 20 overs (Liyan Khan 34, Tushar Singh 34, H.S. Sharath 2/17, Vyshak Vijay Kumar 2/23) lost to Mangalore United 114/2 in 16 overs (Rain stopped play; Revised target: 112 in 18 overs (R. Samarth 52 n.o.).

Mysuru Warriors 172/5 in 20 overs (Karun Nair 27, Pavan Deshpande 43, Shreyas Gopal 62, Stalin Hoover 2/19, K. Gowtham 2/32) bt Shivamogga Strikers 91 (Prateek Jain 2/17, Vidyadhar Patil 2/15, Shubhang Hegde 4/11).

Captain's knock: Samarth helped Mangalore United notch up a facile win. • M.A. SRIRAM

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Huge win for Blue Star

Blue Star HC thrashed Garuda HC 13-2 in a boys' match at the DS Murthy & Radha Murthy Memorial hockey tournament, here on Sunday.
Other results:
Boys: JFHA-B 6 bt Leos SC-A 3; Shlok 10 bt Beasant 2; Guru-B 8 bt Blue Star 5; Guru-A 14 bt New Ashoka 0; Garuda 5 bt Leo's SC-A 3; Guru-B 6 bt JFHA-B 4; Shlok HC 7 bt Guru-A 4.
Girls: Rising Star 8 bt St. Anthonys 4; Chinmaya Vidyalaya-A 8 bt Greenwood High 0.

Daksh shines

Daksh top-scored with 27 points as VNS BC edged All Star SC Mysore 61-59 in the State youth (U-16) basketball championship, here on Sunday.
The results:
Boys: VNS BC 61 (Daksh 27, Ayush 21) bt All Star SC Mysore 59 (Jeevan 20, Rayan 14); MCHS 54 (Karthik 17, Anan 16) bt Bharath SU 27; Appaiah BC 51 (Dhruva 16) bt Young Bulls BC 3; PPC 59 (Varun 17, Milind 13) bt Protec Challengers Mysore 9; Mysore BC 62 (Jayavanth 26, Likith 20) bt Orions SC 32 (Niranjan 10, Nirgun 10); JSC 56 (Rithvik 16, Mirza faizan 11) bt Brothers BC Bijapur 10; HBR BC 54 (Mehul Joe 16, Dishal 12) bt Halasur SU 6; IBBC 30 (Jonathan 14) bt Pinakini GB 22; Bangalore Sporting 49 (Brijesh 19, Shriyan 12) bt ACE BC Bidar 17; Vijayanagar BC Mysore 48 (Pratham 19) bt Bagalkot BC 16.
Girls: Cincinatics BC 26 (Lasya 16) bt Rajkumar BC 25 (Amulya 15); MNK Rao BC 41 (Pragya 18) bt Pattabhiram BC 36 (Jia Mehta 15); Bharath SU 66 (Lavanya 28, Ameya 18) bt MCHS BC 44 (Aditi 25).

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT DIVISION, VIJAYAPUR.
I.F.T.No:EE/PWD/VIP/PB/5054/2022-23/2271 Dated:06.08.2022
TIME EXTENSION FOR SHORT TENDER NOTIFICATION
(E-procurement)

Ref:-This offce tender Notification No. EE/PWD/VIP/PB/5054-8443/2022-23/02126 dt: 27-07-2022.
Tender was invited under Notification cited at Ref (1). The tender dates are here by postponed (Sl. No. 10,11 and 12) due to unavoidable reasons details are as below:
1) Pre-Bid Meeting for Contractors. Date:12.08.2022 @ 11.00 AM.
2) Last Date for Receipt of Tenders Date: 18.08.2022 upto 4.30 PM.
3) Opening of Technical Bid Date: 20.08.2022 at 11.00 AM.
4) Opening of Financial Bid Date: 22.08.2022 at 11.00 AM.
Other Terms and conditions remain unchanged.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Vijayapur
DIPR/VIJAYAPUR/351/MCA/2022-23

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN : U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No. SEE/Tr(W&M)C/MRB/EE(O)/AEE-1/T-64/22-23/2760-65 Date: 05.08.2022
BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION (E-PROCUREMENT MODE ONLY)

Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited invites Tender for the following work. **Bid Enquiry No.:** KPTCL/SEE/Tr.(W&M)C/MRB/EE(O)/AEE-1/22-23/110kV Munirabad-Sindhanur Line I&II Dated 04.08.2022. Tender for the work of Conducting Detailed Survey using modern survey techniques for Re-conductoring of 110kV Munirabad-Sindhanur- I&II Lines with Lynx Conductor by providing intermediate towers in Koppal District. Tenders will be received through E-Procurement mode only. The detailed notification regarding the subject enquiry in the e-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** on hyperlink "eProcurement-KPTCL" or directly logging on to website **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in on or after 08.08.2022 at 11:00 Hrs** details can be obtained from the office of the under signed.

Sd/-Superintending Engineer, Ele
Tr.(W&M) Circle, KPTCL, Munirabad. Ph: 08539-270094

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN:U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No.EEE/CMWD/SMG/AEE-2/2022-23/803-07 Date:05.08.2022
NOTIFICATION

The Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited have formulated a scheme under section 67 of the Electricity supply Act 2003 and the same is herewith published in pursuance of section 67(2)(C) of the said act for information to the public. Particulars of the scheme are as follows.
1) Approximate Project Cost: **Rs. 1017.60 Lakhs**.
2) Name of the Work:"Establishing 2X8MVA, 66/11KV Sub station at Jenugadde and Construction of 66KV DC LILO Line from 66KV Chikkamagaluru-Balehonnur DC line to the proposed 66KV Sub station at Jenugadde for a distance of 0.692Km in Chikkamagaluru Taluk and District on Partial Turn Key basis" including supply of all matching materials/ equipments) Excluding 8MVA 66/11KV Power Transformers) and erection (including civil works) of all materials/equipments, testing & commissioning.
3) Approximate Length of 66KV Line: **0.692Kms**
4) Proposed 66KV Line Passing through areas:-

District	Taluk	Hobli	Village
Chickmagaluru	Chickmagaluru	Kandya Hobli	Jenugadde

KPTCL shall have and exercise all powers which the telegraph authorities possess under part III of the Indian Telegraphs Act 1885(13 of 1885) for implementation of the above said scheme. Any objections or discrepancies regarding the above schemes shall be sent to the office of Executive Engineer (Elecl), Chickmagalur Major Works Division Prasarana Bhavana, 1st Floor B.H.Road, Shivamogga within 30 days from the date of publication of this notification for KPTCL's pursuance.

Sd/- Executive Engineer (Elecl),
Chickmagalur Major Works Division
Prasarana Bhavana, 1st Floor B.H.Road, Shivamogga-577203

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client intends to purchase the below mentioned Schedule Property from its owner (1) **SRI. ABDUL SATTAR,** S/o: Late Abdul Subhan, Aged about: 58 years, (2) **SMT. FARHEEN BANU** D/o: Sri. Late Syed Abdul Rahim, Both Residing at: No. 55, Robertson Road, Fraser Town, Bangalore-560 005. (3) **SRI. SUBBA RAO**, S/o: Late Chudanatha Rao, Aged 61 years, Residing at: No. A-005, Victory Harmony, 12, 4th cross SSA Road, Anand Nagar, Bangalore - 560 024.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

Item No.I: ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF the immovable Property Bearing Municipal No.116 (Formerly 49), situated at Coles Road, Fraser Town, Ward No.91 Pulikeshi Nagar, Bangalore, measuring East to West 82 Feet and North to South 120 feet in all measuring **9840 Square Feet** and bounded as follows;
EAST BY : Property No.115; **WEST BY :** Property No.117; **NORTH BY :** Passage and Property belonging to Mr. Abdul Sattar; **SOUTH BY :** Private Property.
Item No. II (Approach to the Item No. 1 property)
ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF Vacant Property Bearing Northern Portion Municipal No.116, situated at Coles Road, Fraser Town, Ward No.91 Pulikeshi Nagar, Bangalore, measuring **East to West**: 25 Feet and **North to South:** 30.5 feet in all measuring **760 Square Feet** and bounded as follows;
EAST BY : Site No.115; **WEST BY :** Site No.117; **NORTH BY :** Coles Road; **SOUTH BY :** Above said item No.1 property.
Notice is hereby given to all concerned who have any objection/s for purchase of Schedule Property or have any right, title, interest or claim/s over the same or any part thereof, are hereby requested to lodge their written objections/claims together with supporting documentary proof to the undersigned within (15) Fifteen days from the date of publication of this notice. If no objections or claims are forthcoming within the above said period, my client shall purchase the above said property and no subsequent claim/s by anybody shall be entertained and all such objections and claims would be deemed to be void and non-binding on my client.

S. SELVAKUMAR M.A., LL.M., Advocate
No: 22, 4th 'C' Cross, 5th Block, Koramangala Industrial Layout, Bangalore - 560 095. Tel: 080-25526644/45; 25530200.

Bangalore Date: 07/08/2022